



LAST MONTH'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
424,000
No 63,602

TRAVEL

Rites behind
the masks
of carnival



REVIEW

Where the dogs
race for
the fun of it

BOOKS

The mysterious
Peggy Lee
tells her story



30p

THE TIMES

SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1990

Gorbachov is accused of 'a cheap lie' Lithuanian rebuff for secession law offer

Villains (Renter) — Lithuanians demanding a return to their pre-war independence yesterday reacted sceptically to President Gorbachov's promise of a new law which could allow them to secede from the Soviet Union.

The draft law, which Mr Gorbachov announced would be put to an unprecedented nationwide referendum, was just "a vague promise designed to save time", Mr Algimantas Cekulaitis, a senior member of the Lithuanian Communist Party, said.

"This is a cheap lie, it's a lie for naive people in the West."

Mr Vytautas Landsbergis, president of Lithuania's pro-independence Sajudis movement, said of the proposal, adding: "I wonder if it came from him or someone suggested it. It means other people will decide for us."

A legal expert in the Soviet Parliament in Moscow also dampened speculation of an

The East German Prime Minister, Herr Hans Modrow, yesterday scrapped plans for a new security service after his coalition partners had threatened to leave the Government if the plan went ahead. Page 8

Soviet disarray 8

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imminent break-up of the Soviet Union, saying the law would be concerned more with regulating relations between member republics than with secession.

Mr Gorbachov, faced with an explosion of secession feeling on the first day of his three-day visit to Lithuania, yesterday travelled to Siauliai, a city 120 miles northwest of Vilnius, the capital, which is home to a big military airfield that local activists want closed.

"I am for self-determination up to the point of secession," Mr Gorbachov said in a didactic, hour-long speech to Lithuanian intellectuals late on Thursday.

"In this connection instructions have been issued to work out a draft law providing for a mechanism for republics to leave the Soviet Union."

Yesterday Mr Cekulaitis, who is also a local newspaper editor, said: "This could all be interesting only if it were followed up by practical steps, such as demilitarization, withdrawal of troops from the Baltic states and so on."

Mr Gorbachov couched his remarks with repeated appeals to Lithuanians not to try to break with Moscow, saying the path to political, social and economic independence was through continued membership of the Soviet Union.

"Today I am your friend, but

you must be a good communist.

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TOMORROW'S SPORT

Favourite position
Jimmy Fitzgerald as he seeks a first victory in Europe's richest handicap hurdle

Ryan and Smith finish on top in Luton shake-up

By Dennis Sinyay

After a day of comings and goings at Kenilworth Road, Luton Town, one place from the bottom of the first division, finished with a new manager and a new chairman and saw the departure of the coach who was expected to succeed Ray Harford.

Brian Cole, who controversially and publicly criticized Harford's style on New Year's Day, gave up as chairman for "personal and business commitments" after seven months in the position. He was succeeded by Roger Smith, a wealthy businessman, who has been a director of the club since July 1972, and is one of the major shareholders.

Luton carried on their policy of promoting from within the ranks when Jim Ryan, their reserve-team coach, was elevated to manager rather than Terry Mancini, who was temporarily put in charge when Harford left eight days before. Ryan, aged 44, first joined the club as a player in 1970. He made 184 appearances during a seven-year stay and has been coach to the reserves for 2½ seasons.

Ryan played in the Luton side that won promotion to the first division in 1974. He was a reserve-team player at Manchester United in the

1960s, winning a European Cup winners' medal at Old Trafford.

While Ryan meets the players this morning to prepare for tomorrow's match at Anfield against Liverpool, Mancini will be heading for a golf course for the first time in months. "I will treat myself to a round," he said.

Mancini was given a part on amicable terms with a settlement on the remaining 18 months of his contract.

The supporters of Luton, who are more interested in playing results than boardroom power struggles, got an honest look at the future from the new manager. Ryan said: "I won't make any promises about staying in the first division or playing fantastic football, but we will work as hard as possible to do that."

"I have a certain feeling about the club and the way they play football. Everything about the job seemed right to me. I know the senior players well and I cannot think of another club I would like to manage. It is my club. I grew up with them."

Yesterday's developments are a follow-up to Cole's reaction to the crowd brawling Harford following a 3-0 home defeat by Chelsea on December 30. Cole said that

Harford did not possess charisma and had only himself to blame for the crowd's reaction as he had never really won over their hearts.

Cole, aged 47, a life-long Luton supporter, who graduated from the terraces to the board room, succeeded David Evans, the Conservative MP for Wrexham and Hatfield, as chairman in June 1989.

Although Harford took Luton to Wembley three times in his two years in charge — beating Arsenal 3-2 in the Littlewoods Cup final in 1988 and losing to Reading in the Simod Cup the same season and to Nottingham Forest in the Littlewoods Cup last year — Cole criticized him as "a poor character, who doesn't smile often at supporters". When the remarks were not withdrawn, Harford left.

Cole will stay on as a director but, it is understood, there was some plain speaking by Evans at yesterday's board meeting. Mancini's reaction to his departure was to say: "I have not been given a chance because I have not been given the job. Having said that, I left on amicable terms. It was done very quickly and sharp."

Mancini said he wished to team up again with Harford. "I think we can make a good team somewhere."

Littlewoods decides to withdraw cup backing

By Louise Taylor

Littlewoods has decided against renewing its sponsorship of the League Cup after the final in April but the Football League is optimistic that a contract with a new backer will be signed by the end of next week.

League officials would not name potential successors yesterday but whoever is named next week will be committed to an agreement in excess of the £2.5 million, four-year Littlewoods contract. "The new sponsorship will be worth more," Trevor Phillips, the League's commercial director, admitted.

Phillips added that, in order not to deflect attention away from Littlewoods as this season's competition reaches its final stages, the announcement of the new backer would be "low key."

Several companies are understood to have courted

the League in connection with the cup contract, and Phillips said: "I looked for a considerable improvement in the sponsorship money this time. When Littlewoods took over, the money was not the important thing. It was post-Hesey, and it was the statement of confidence in football that counted. Littlewoods have seen us through some difficult times and we will always be grateful to them."

Before Littlewoods stepped in 1986 the competition was under-written by the Milk Marketing Board, its first sponsor, for five years.

The arrangement with the Liverpool-based concern has come to an apparently amicable end. Harry Thomas, the business development director of the Littlewoods group, said yesterday: "We have had no problems with the League

and we go not regard this as a question of pulling out. We have had a happy association but we feel it has served our purpose."

Littlewoods originally had to take up an option to renew, but at Phillips's insistence that date was brought forward by seven months. That action reflects both a new found confidence in football on the part of the commercial world, and the marketing opportunities offered in a World Cup year.

Potential sponsors are likely to have established sporting links but with ITV contracted to screen the competition for the next three years satellite television is less likely to step into this particular breach.

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Sentence 'too lenient'

Man who raped his former girl friend has term doubled

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A man who raped his former girl friend had his two-year sentence lengthened to four and a half years by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday under new powers to review over-lenient sentences.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, said the decision was a "victory for those of us who have been protesting against powder-puff sentences for criminals."

The judges, headed by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, agreed with Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney General, that the sentence on Paul Thornton, aged 31, was "unduly lenient".

Thornton, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, looked shocked as the decision was announced. Earlier, Mr Anthony Daigle, his counsel, accepted that the sentence imposed at St Albans Crown Court last September was lenient.

However, he urged the judges not to intervene under powers granted to them by the 1988 Criminal Justice Act which came into force last summer.

Lord Lane said Thornton had a 20-month relationship with the 18-year-old victim. She had asked that they remained friends after she ended it but after she called to visit him earlier last year, he stripped and raped her.

Lord Lane, who sat with Mr Justice Leggett and Mr Justice Hutchison, said: "The fact that the parties live together for 20 months does not obviously license the man to have sexual intercourse with the girl. It is, however, a factor to which some weight must be given."

"But we have come to the conclusion that this sentence was outside the proper limits of the judge's discretion in this case."

Mr Edward Bevan, counsel

for the Attorney General, said earlier that Thornton had used force when it must have been absolutely obvious to him that the girl was unwilling.

At St Albans, Judge Goldstone had told Thornton that men should not use their superior physical strength on

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that the Court of Appeal's decision was part of a pattern that reflected public concern over sentencing for rape. He said that in the past two years the average sentence for rape had increased from three years eight months to six years. "In recent times the courts have been responding to public concern by increasing sentences. It would appear to be part of that pattern."

women, but that his case was at the lower end of the bracket.

Mr Dickens said: "I have, in the past, been rebuked in the House of Commons for criticizing judges for doing over-lenient sentences."

"This decision entirely vindicates my criticism."

"This means that criminals can no longer walk out of a court laughing at authority believing they have been lightly treated."

"They now know that the spectre lurks of an increased punishment if the law officers think fit."

"These judges have doubled what was plainly a lenient sentence."

"I would have liked to see it increased further, but at least this will act as a serious warning to other potential rapists that they can no longer expect leniency from the Court of Appeal."

In a second case before the court, a young sub post office raider who terrified an assis-

tant with a baseball bat had a 30-month jail sentence doubled to five years.

The Court of Appeal judges acted on a recommendation by the Attorney General to increase the sentence on Steven Lloyd Lacey, aged 23, under their powers to review over-lenient penalties.

Lord Lane, sitting in London with the same 100 judges, agreed the sentence was "plainly below the acceptable limit".

Lacey, of Queenswood Road, Moseley, Birmingham, with only one previous court appearance for a minor offence and said to come from a good home, showed no emotion as the decision was announced.

Lacey carried out the raid with an accomplice who was never caught.

He used a baseball bat to smash the glass protection screen at the office in Bartley Green, Birmingham, after £4,000 in cash had been delivered.

Mr Edward Bevan, for the Attorney General, said a deterrent sentence was called for because small businesses such as sub post offices were particularly vulnerable to attack.

Lord Lane said: "So far as it is possible, the courts must provide such protection as they can to those who carry out the services which fulfill a very important function in the suburbs of our large cities."

"It must be made clear to those who commit these offences that severe sentences will be imposed in order to persuade robbers or other greedy people that it is simply not worth the candle."

Mr Henry Spooner, Lacey's counsel, said it would be foolish to pretend the sentence was not lenient. However, he said it was not so far out of line that the court should interfere.

The idea was simple. If it was dark, you would think the line between London and Glasgow was dead straight," a BR spokesman said. On one

occasion, however, the mechanism failed to tilt, and the journalists on board lost no time in branding the project a failure.

The train was made obsolete by the introduction of the shuttle service between London and Glasgow, and the completion of the motorway between the two cities. Demand fell and the APT was withdrawn because of high maintenance costs.

BR nevertheless insists that the £60 million spent on research and development was money well spent; many of the project's technical breakthroughs have been incorporated in the new 140mph InterCity 225s serving the east coast mainline between London and Leeds.

Now in the hands of the Crewe railway heritage museum, the APT seems to have been as unfortunate in retirement as it was in service. BR said yesterday: "It's been out in the open for a long time, and is beginning to look a bit sad."

Scientists began examining rail suspension systems and the reaction of wheels on rails in the 1960s. The culmination of their efforts was the APT – complete with the infamous tilt mechanism for taking corners at speeds in excess of 140mph – to run between London and Glasgow.

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Perfect Draught Bass.

A delicate balance of fruit, grass & leather.

Probably not the kind of words
that spring readily to mind when
describing your favourite
pint of bitter.

But to a very special
group of Draught
Bass drinkers, words
like grass and
leather or even
cooked veg.
trip easily off
the tongue.

We mean,
of course,
the flavour
testers who
make sure
that every
single

*The
Draught Bass
flavour-wheel -
how we make
sure every pint's as
distinctive as the last.*



pint we brew has the same nutty,
malty, subtle taste.

They use the 'flavour-wheel' illustrated here.

This glossary of
sixty different
flavour or taste
descriptions is
the only sure
way to keep
every pint
of Draught

Bass we
make as
distinctive
as the
original
1777
brew.

Naturally,
we would
never
expect you
worry
about the
eties that
keep our
engrossed

When they've done
their job, you should be
able to describe Draught Bass
as, quite simply, a great pint. 

You can tell it with your eyes closed.

Couple 'trapped' in Spain for 18 months by holiday accident

By David Sapsted

An English couple yesterday said they had been "trapped" in a tiny bedsit in Spain for the past 18 months after a car accident had destroyed their lives and left them almost penniless.

One of the country's largest insurance companies warned that the plight of Mr Stanley Lewis and his wife Rita, who was crippled by the crash in July 1987, illustrated an important but little appreciated problem for Britons involved in car accidents abroad.

Norwich Union said: "The public are being misled into thinking that, because European barriers are coming down and because British insurance documents are now acceptable in other Common Market countries, they can expect the same cover abroad as they can at home. The fact is they can't unless they have obtained a 'green card', and the personal cover in many European countries is much, much lower than it is in Britain."

In the case of Mrs Lewis, it means that third-party personal injury liability was restricted to a maximum of £8,500 under Spanish law. Under British requirements, there has traditionally been unlimited personal cover.

The couple have been fighting a lengthy legal battle in Spain to try to get compensation for Mrs Lewis, aged 52, who was a keen sportswoman and dancer before she sustained extensive chest and leg injuries in the accident.

At the couple's £15,000 bedsit in Fuengirola on the Costa del Sol, Mrs Lewis said:

"Our lives have been completely shattered. We have lost everything. All our savings have gone on medical bills and trying to survive since the crash. I estimate it has cost us more than £40,000. We cannot afford to go on living in Spain, but we have no money to return to England. Our situation is desperate. We are trapped."

The other vehicle involved in the crash was a Mercedes 450SL sports car belonging to Sir Graham Eyre, QC, a deputy judge. Sir Graham believed the vehicle to be locked in the garage of his villa near Calahonda when, in fact, it had been taken without his permission by Sr Jose York, a Spaniard who claimed he was employed part-time to look after the Mercedes. According to Spanish police, Sr York was

drunk and had driven up the wrong side of the highway leading to Malaga airport when he crashed into the couple's Peugeot being driven by Mrs Lewis.

She was trapped for more than an hour with a crushed chest, broken ribs, internal bleeding and extensive leg injuries. "It was a miracle I survived," she said.

Mr York claimed at the time that, despite not having a driving licence, he had Sir Graham's permission to drive. He has since left the area and cannot be traced. Sir Graham's own 'green card' was not in force because he was in Britain and has stated that Sr York had no permission to drive the car. The couple themselves did not have 'green card' cover.

The Norwich Union, Sir Graham's insurers, said in a letter to Mr and Mrs Lewis's Spanish solicitor: "As the driver is Spanish and is not subject to the jurisdiction of our country, any proceedings issued must be in Spain against the driver."

"A 'green card' was not in force at the time of the accident. Therefore, the cover is restricted to the minimum compulsory insurance in Spain."

Mrs Lewis, who has had numerous operations on her legs and still requires further surgery, said she and her husband had sold their home in Tamworth, Staffordshire, after her husband retired from his job as a Jaguar car worker and had decided to take a long holiday on the Costa del Sol to decide their future.

Mr and Mrs Lewis: Crash happened while on holiday to discuss their future.

Scottish Enterprise head named

Mr David Nickson, one of Scotland's leading businessmen, was yesterday appointed as the chairman of Scottish Enterprise, which will merge the work of the Scottish Development Agency and the Training Agency (Kerry Gill writes).

Sir David, chairman of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, is presently chairman of the SDA. His appointment, by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Sec-

retary of State for Scotland, had been widely predicted. Scottish Enterprise is to be established by the Government later this year.

More surprising, however, was the announcement yesterday that Mr Iain Robertson, chief executive of the SDA, had chosen to return to the private sector. He is to become group finance director of County Natwest Limited.

Scottish Enterprise will seek

to regenerate the Scottish economy by merging training and economic development functions.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise organization, which is to replace the Highlands and Islands Development Board, will run in parallel.

Much of the workload and decision making will be handled by small enterprise bodies run by local businessmen.

Child murder inquiry

Detective's plea to anonymous caller

By Peter Davenport

A detective leading the investigation into the murder of a girl aged 10 four years ago made an urgent appeal yesterday to an anonymous woman informant who might have important information about the case.

The woman left a message on the answering phone at a West Yorkshire Police incident room in Leeds manned by officers investigating the abduction and murder of Sarah Harper.

She disappeared on March 26, 1986, near her home in Morley and her partly clothed body was found on April 19, almost 70 miles away in the river Trent, Nottinghamshire. She had been violently attacked and sexually assaulted.

Since her murder detective, headed by Det Supt John Stainthorpe, have interviewed more than 15,000 people. When Mr Stainthorpe arrived at work yesterday he found a minute-long message on the incident room answering phone from a woman who did not give her name. Later he said: "I urgently want to

hear from this woman again and strongly appeal to her to ring me. I will meet her anywhere at any time and promise her complete anonymity."

Mr Stainthorpe said he was convinced the message was not a "crank" call. He declined to disclose the information given but said it would be investigated further. "There are, however, certain questions I would like to put to her."

The murder of Sarah is also the subject of a wider inquiry, involving six police forces, investigating possible connections with the killing of two other girls.

Susan Maxwell, aged 11, was abducted while near her home at Coldstream in the Borders in July 1982 and her body found 15 days later, 200 miles away at Loxley, Staffordshire.

A year later, Caroline Hogg, aged five, was abducted near her home in Edinburgh and her body was found 10 days later, near Tiverton, in Leicestershire.

Unionists fear opposition to Anglo-Irish pact fading

By Edward German, Irish Affairs Correspondent

A decision this week by a Unionist-controlled council to end its boycott of Stormont ministers is being viewed with grave concern by leaders of Ulster's two Unionist parties.

In the wake of the keynote speech by Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in which he expressed hopes that inter-party talks might soon be possible, Unionist leaders are worried that their four-year campaign of opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement may be crumbling at the precipitative moment.

Ards Borough Council in Co Down decided on Tuesday by 11 votes to 7 to formally end its boycott — in place since December 10, 1985, a month after the signing of the treaty. It is the province's first Unionist-controlled council to lift its ban and the decision defies the wishes of Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leaders.

Mr Jim Wilson, UUP secretary, said yesterday: "I would like to see the party strengthening its position in relation to the Anglo-Irish

Agreement rather than showing signs of weakness."

He did not know of other Unionist-controlled councils contemplating a similar move, though he was aware that individual councillors elsewhere favoured lifting the ban.

Government sources have welcomed the Ards decision, saying it helped to give substance to Mr Brooke's confidence that Ulster's political environment was improving.

The Ards decision, on a motion proposed by Mr Bobby McBride, a UUP councillor, came after a heated

debate. It was passed with the backing of six of the seven UUP members present — the other abstained — and with the support of all four alliance councillors and one independent. All seven DUP members voted against.

Conservative candidates have stood in council by-elections in the province and may stand against Ulster Unionists at the next general election.

Conservative candidates

had agreed to support the Ards decision.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, has met the chairmen of the four newly created Conservative Associations in Ulster to discuss plans for their further growth (Nigel Williams writes).

Mr Baker said yesterday: "I would like this council and its officers to be able to argue with ministers and influence ministerial decisions. The boycott should, and can, be replaced by more powerful means — none greater than democratic argument."

Mr Baker said he was "delighted" to hear of the progress the associations had made.

Mr Baker said: "I would like to see the party strengthening its position in relation to the Anglo-Irish

Gull deaths renew pesticide concern

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Scientists in Scotland have found high levels of the chemical Diclorvos, the main ingredient of a pesticide used in the fish farming industry, in 15 dead herring gulls (Kerry Gill writes).

The gulls were found near fish cages in north-west Scotland and were said by an onlooker to be "dropping from the sky" after apparently consuming the pesticide Novan.

The gulls were found at a fish farm in Badcall Bay, close to the village of Scourie, operated by Mr Joseph Johnston and Co of Montrouz. The incident was reported and the dead gulls sent for analysis.

Conservative candidates

had agreed to support the Ards decision.

Mr Marshall Halliday, managing director of Joseph Johnston and Co of Montrouz, said: "We are concerned that the chemical had come from another source."

He denied any suggestion that the poison had been deliberately laid around the dead gulls.

The birds were spotted by the farm manager who notified

the Thurso Veterinary Investigation Centre. Their tissue was sent to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries laboratory at East Craigs, Edinburgh.

A laboratory said the matter was under discussion between the department and Joseph Johnston.

Mr Halliday said the deaths were a mystery. The birds were found over two days in November.

"We were surprised and very concerned and immediately checked all our procedures and we are satisfied that there is no way the Diclorvos could come from the fish farm."

"We pride ourselves on being a responsible company in an environmental sense and in this instance we believe we have acted totally responsibly," he said.

Mr David Dick, investigations officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said he was appalled by the incident. The link between the chemical and fish farming had become notorious.

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Orphans' treat

Rugby union clubs in Cumbria are planning to bring 150 Romanian orphans to the Lake District for Easter. The clubs entertained Romanian teams before the uprising.

Drain gain

The Stanton Works, of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, has won a £250,000 contract to provide drains for a prison near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, so that each cell can have a flush lavatory.

Police search

Police with dogs searched the area around Milnthorpe, Cumbria, yesterday for Miss Valerie Snaith, aged 28, who was last seen on Thursday evening.

Child drowned

A deputy coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death on Jaskaren Dhindsa, aged two, of Irwell Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire, who drowned while playing in her bath.

Aids deaths up

Sixty-four people had died from Aids in Scotland by the end of 1989, out of 132 reported cases. Six more cases were reported in December than the previous month and one more death.

Heritage body stops church auction of royal tomb

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

The tomb of one of Queen Victoria's first cousins has narrowly escaped auction at Sotheby's after intervention by heritage bodies.

A priest had sent it for auction because, there were plans to convert the Roman Catholic church in which it stood into a photographic studio.

The recumbent effigy of the Duchesse de Nemours, wife of King Louis-Philippe's second son, comes from the church of St Charles Borromeo, at Weybridge, Surrey, which was used by the French Royal family in exile.

The work by Henri Chapu, the most distinguished French sculptor of the age, was commissioned when the duchess died after childbirth, at the age of 34 in the 1830s.

It comprises a marble portrait of the duchess surrounded by her flowing hair which, it said, was being combed as she died.

In 1979 the duchess's bones were removed to the family mausoleum at the Royal Chapel of St Louis Drexel in

France at the request of a descendant.

Recently, during a £3.5 million project to build a new Roman Catholic church and convert St Charles Borromeo, Father Charles Jeffries, who was in charge of the scheme, decided to sell the tomb to France.

The tomb has been moved back to France, and as we are moving out of the church it seemed a sensible thing to get the tomb back to the rightful body," Father Jeffries said.

"But the French were not interested in it, except as a gift, and so it has gone to Sotheby's."

He had been completely unaware of the legal implications and was astonished at the outcry.

He said he had been advised that the best way to get it back to where he believed it belonged would be to auction it, giving "wealthy French families" an opportunity to buy.

The tomb was taken to Sotheby's, London, where it was valued at £10,000.

taking advantage of a loophole in Listed Buildings law from which it is exempt.

At the last annual meeting of the Victorian Society, Mr Howell called for the ending of ecclesiastical exemption for non-Anglican churches.

"The whole business shows the Catholic church needs to be regulated by listed building regulations," Mr Prost said.

Now, on the advice of Dr Richard Morris of English Heritage, the local council has insisted that Father Jeffries put in a formal retrospective application for permission to remove the tomb. In the mean time he must bring it back.

The likelihood that permission for the removal of the tomb will be granted is slight, considering the force of objection.

The irony is that the court case on which the heritage groups are basing their stance, which involved the conviction of an executor for the estate of Orchardleigh House, near Frome, Somerset, for selling fixtures and fittings, is due to come to appeal in April, and may be overturned.

Lobbyists were particularly incensed because they see the incident as another example of the Roman Catholic church

Appeal against City scheme by Palumbo

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The conservation group Save Britain's Heritage is to appeal against a High Court decision to allow the developer Peter Palumbo to go ahead with his controversial £140 million scheme involving the demolition of eight listed buildings in the City of London.

The scheme, on the Mappin and Webb site near Mansion House, has been the subject of two public inquiries.

It was finally approved by Mr Nicholas Ridley, then Secretary of State for the Environment, last June.

Save Britain's Heritage took the issue to the High Court in November, arguing that it was a crucial test case and claiming that Mr Ridley had been wrong to approve it.

The group's objections were overruled and it was ordered to pay three-quarters of the costs, estimated at £50,000.

Announcing the decision to appeal, Mr Marcus Binney, president of Save Britain's Heritage, said yesterday: "We might just be a masterpiece."

The designs by James Stirling for the new buildings to replace the listed Victorian premises were criticized by the Prince of Wales, who likened them to a "1930s wireless set".

He remained profoundly dissatisfied with the Secretary of State's reasoning in allowing the demolition of the eight listed buildings and a whole acre of London's central conservation area.

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Mr Ridley, however, accepted the assessment of the inquiry inspector that the proposals "by their dignified order, their imaginative ingenuity and pervading overall consistency, would contribute more both to the immediate environment and to the architectural heritage than the retention of the existing buildings". The inspector also said of the Stirling design: "It might just be a masterpiece."

NEWS ROUNDUP

Waddington gives submission pledge

New submissions to the Home Office on behalf of the six men convicted of the Birmingham public house bombings 15 years ago would be considered very speedily, Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said yesterday (Craig Scott writes).

Mr Waddington said he had started studying the submissions presented to his office, but he was not yet in a position to say whether they amounted to new evidence which could be considered by a court.

The Home Secretary said: "I have a clear responsibility to consider whether there would be new evidence or new considerations which were not before the courts before and which justify the matter going back before the court. If such substantial new evidence is put before me, I will not shrink from doing my duty, but we are not there yet."

Mr Waddington also denied that an electronic tagging experiment carried out by magistrates in Nottingham had finished two weeks early. He said the pilot scheme was not "a dead duck by any manner of means".

Tesco fined £1,200

The Tesco supermarket at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, yesterday pleaded guilty to six charges of giving misleading information about the price of goods in a hearing at Bulmer East Magistrates' Court. It was fined £1,200 and ordered to pay £151 costs.

A matter of 14p in false pricing led to the store being forced to change its nationwide pricing policy. Mrs Heather Knowison set a series of trading standards checks in train after she noticed that the price shown on her till receipt did not tally with that shown registered by the bar scanner.

EC politics defended

Sir Leon Brittan, a European Community commissioner, yesterday entered the dispute between the Government and Conservative members of the European Parliament by calling on Westminster Tories to stop treating EC politics as a "ghetto" (Nigel Williamson writes). He called on MPs and MEPs to work for the good of the party, but his intervention will be interpreted as a rebuke to the Government. Tory MEPs are to meet the Prime Minister on January 24.

170 Liverpool jobs go

More than 160 job losses were announced yesterday at two Liverpool companies. The margarine producers Pura Foods are to shed 125 jobs at their Bootle factory, and Higsons, the brewers, are to end production in Liverpool with the loss of a further 45 jobs. Mr Jim Weir, Pura's managing director, said that the company's Regent Road factory was no longer economic and would be run down over six months.

Shooting case remand

Robert Sartin, aged 22, of Whitley Bay, who is accused of murder and 13 charges of attempted murder, denied one of the charges at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court yesterday. He was arrested shortly after a man was killed and 13 others wounded by gunshots in Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, last April. He denied the one charge put to him, that he attempted to murder Mr William Frank Roberts, and he was remanded in custody until February 19.

Barricades in prison

An inquiry was ordered yesterday by the governor, Miss Jo Fowler, into how a group of about 20 prisoners managed to take over F wing of the 400-prisoner medium-security Blundeston Prison near Lowestoft, Suffolk, and hold prison officers at bay with barricades for more than four hours overnight on Thursday. The Home Office said that the disturbance had started in the dining room as a result of an argument between two prisoners.

Irish castle is raided by art thieves

By Edward Gorman and Sarah Jane Checkland

Irish police were last night hunting a gang of art thieves which stole five paintings estimated to be worth a total of £1 million from a castle in Co Meath.

They included three works said to be by Van Dyck, though experts believed last night that they might be "school of Van Dyck" and thus worth considerably less than the master's work.

The theft, the latest in a series in the Republic, is thought to have taken place early yesterday morning.

The thieves removed iron bars from a ground-floor window of Dunsany Castle, near Trim.

The stolen paintings were hanging in the hall and dining room of the 13th-century castle.

There were no alarm sys-

tems and the thieves, who also stole silverware and ransacked the castle library, did not disturb people asleep upstairs.

The missing "Van Dyck" portraits were of Charles I, his wife Henrietta Maria, and a second woman.

Two other paintings by Jack B Yeats, brother of the poet

A group of 16th-century Italian drawings, bought by the British Rail Pension Fund for an undisclosed sum in the 1970s, was sold to a French investment company for \$2.53 million (£1.5 million) at Sotheby's New York on Thursday night (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

The buyer was M Bruno de Bayser, the Parisian dealer, bidding on behalf of the investment advisory service Finance Art.

Sotheby's device of offering the group of 20 drawings by the Mannerist painter Feder-

ico Zuccaro and telling the life of his brother Zuccaro, initially as a single lot, paid off when the price crept over its \$2.5 million estimate.

The drawings were the highlight in a group of around 60 by the Mannerist artist sold by the fund for a total of \$4.5 million (£2.739 million).

There was disappointment earlier in the day, however, when an important landscape by Claude Lorrain went unsold at £1.2 million.

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Hong Kong-Peking talks

Governor fails to dispel gloom

From Andrew McEwen, Hong Kong, and Heidi Chay, Peking

Sir David Wilson, the Governor of Hong Kong, flew back to the colony from his talks in Peking last night to face deep pessimism among groups campaigning for greater democracy during the final seven years of British rule.

Sir David will brief Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who arrives here today for a four-day visit, on the Chinese reaction to demands for more democracy.

Demonstrations calling on Britain to increase the number of directly elected representatives for the last two polls under British rule, in 1991 and 1995, are planned for tomorrow. Mr Hurd has, however, made it clear that his priority is continuity, so that constitutional changes made by London are not reversed as soon as Peking takes over.

The Governor is understood to have met a tough response when he urged officials in Peking to take a more relaxed view of Hong Kong's wish for a greater proportion of its legislators to be directly elected. He did not indicate how the problem might be resolved. "At this stage, I think we have to wait and see what comes out of the (Basic Law) drafting process," he said. Basic Law, described as a post-1997 mini-constitution, is to undergo final revision in Canton next week.

Sir David said his talks had increased understanding on sensitive political issues but produced few solutions. "I can't say we've solved every problem, but I do think it has been possible to increase understanding and get back to resuming the sort of practical dialogue we need," Sir David said shortly before his return.



Mr Li Peng: On some issues there is a 'drawing together'.

He had, however, assured China's leaders that Hong Kong would not be used as a base to subvert their country. "We don't want people from outside Hong Kong to come and use it (the colony) as a battlefield against China."

Talks covered economic issues such as developing Hong Kong's infrastructure, political issues and the incomplete Basic Law. Sir David said China also gave assurances of co-operation on the problem of Vietnamese boat people.

Sir David said he had defended Britain's decision last month to grant passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families, as well as Hong Kong's plan to adopt a Bill of Rights in face of strong Chinese opposition.

Signs of tension during the visit were plentiful. Reports from the official New China news agency described the talks as "candid" and "frank", diplomatic words that often indicate open disagreement.

Mr Li Hou, of China's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, told reporters there were "still storm clouds" in Britain.

Mr Li Peng said: "They see that Britain is waiting to see what China wants before it announces its policy."

He and other leaders of the group have been granted a five-minute meeting with Mr Hurd on Monday where they will call for half the Legislative Council members to be directly elected in 1991 and all of them in 1995. None of the present members was directly elected.

The mood in the colony is much quieter than when Sir Geoffrey Howe, then the Foreign Secretary, visited soon after the Tiananmen Square massacre last June. Sir Geoffrey encountered unprecedented demonstrations, and local officials walked out of a luncheon after his keynote speech.

Every effort is being made to ensure there is no repetition when Mr Hurd speaks to the General Chamber of Com-

merce on Monday. 600 invitations have gone out, but none to local politicians who are not also in business.

One of those excluded is Mr Lee Wing-tat, chairman of the Kwai Tsing District Board, who harangued Sir Geoffrey during his luncheon.

Like Mr Yeung Sum, he felt many people would stay away from the demonstration because of disillusionment. "If Hong Kong people have the feeling that the UK will not confront China, they will say: 'Why bother?'" he said.

But Mr Hurd's approach was praised by Brigadier Ian

Peking (Reuters) - China yesterday published stringent new rules on demonstrations in Peking to prevent unrest now that martial law has been lifted. Authorities have also drawn up new regulations for foreign journalists, expected to be promulgated soon.

The *Peking Daily* said that government permission had to be obtained for any assembly in certain areas of the city, including Tiananmen Square.

Christie, director of the chamber of commerce. "We have got to come up with something (on democracy) that is in keeping with the spirit of the (Sino-British) Joint Declaration and provides a reasonable degree of democratic representation while being acceptable to all parties," he said.

If Mr Hurd sees the demonstration, it will probably be from a helicopter since he will be making an aerial tour of the territory. The size of the demonstration will be an important test of feeling that shows whether traditional apathy about democracy is

returning. Mr Hurd will also be urged by members of the Executive Council to improve the British Government's proposal to give British passports to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of households - covering about 225,000 people - a measure intended to engender the confidence to stay in the colony.

Mr Lee said most people thought this proposal would benefit only the rich or influential.

Not everyone is dissatisfied with it. Mr Tony Halmos, campaign co-ordinator of Honour Hong Kong, another pressure group, said that, while the figure was less than hoped for, the package would help to rebuild confidence.

• LONDON: The Government's policy to let 225,000 high-ranking Hong Kong citizens settle in Britain is bitterly opposed in a pamphlet issued today by an influential Conservative pressure group (Sheila Gunn writes).

As Tory MPs continue to voice their fears about its consequences the Bow Group paper condemns the scheme as "the worst possible solution" and says it may lead to panic among middle and lower-ranking officials and provoke mass migration to Britain by the colony's administrative elite.

Instead, it advocates granting the right of abode to all Hong Kong residents with "dependent territory" status while imposing a strict quota of a maximum 300,000 immigrants a year.

Its criticisms look certain to stiffen opposition among Tory backbenchers due to confront Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, at a private meeting on Monday.

Japan's imperial betrothal

Fiancée to be schooled in courtly etiquette

From Joe Joseph

Tokyo

The romance of Miss Kiko Kawashima, a chirpy post-graduate commoner, with Japan's Prince Aya was yesterday entrusted to antique imperial courtiers charged with turning her into a textbook Japanese princess.

Prince Aya, 24 years old and second in line to the throne, sealed the engagement yesterday by sending sake rice wine, a pair of sea bream and bolts of silk to the modest Tokyo home of his university sweetheart, the first time this formal imperial ceremony has been held in a huddled, concrete apartment complex.

He flies back to his zoology books at Oxford tomorrow, but by the time he returns for the wedding in June Miss Kawashima, the 23-year-old daughter of a university don, will be an expert on Japanese court ceremonies, royal etiquette, Japanese history and the Constitution.

She will learn to write 31-syllable *waka* poems, the medieval precursor of the snappier 17-syllable *haiku* and a form now only used by members of the imperial family for presentation to the Emperor at New Year.

Miss Kawashima will also study the imperial system and religious rites that give Japan's monarch his divinity, a belief that has quietly outlasted General MacArthur's efforts to, as he called it, "de-god" Emperor Hirohito after the Americans arrived to occupy and rule Japan at the end of the Second World War.



Miss Kawashima, dressed in pink kimono and elaborate gold sash, arriving at the Imperial Palace yesterday for the formal exchange of gifts to mark her betrothal to Prince Aya, right.

Pretoria plans more cuts to defence budget

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg

Substantial cuts in military spending in South Africa are expected to be announced soon, as part of President de Klerk's policy of demilitarizing the country.

Last month the national service of young whites was cut from two years to one year. Pretoria sources said yesterday this was only the start.

A South African Defence Force spokesman confirmed

that the building of a new 250 million rand (£60 million) headquarters in Pretoria is to be postponed indefinitely. Further cuts are expected to lead to a 25 per cent cut in the military budget, which under Mr de Klerk's predecessor, Mr P.W. Botha, increased from 4.3 billion rand in 1985-1986 to 10 billion rand in this financial year.

The 10-year-old Marine Corps is also expected to be disbanded and several ships of

the Navy put into mothballs. Some sources predict that naval personnel will be cut by 40 per cent.

Air Force units along the coast may also be trimmed, and another project that could be axed is the development by Armscor, the parastatal arms manufacturer, of a super-battle tank. The Women's Army College at George in the Cape Province may also be closed.

Mr Bob Rogers, defence spokesman for the opposition

Democratic Party, said yesterday that the country's defence commitment had been significantly reduced with the withdrawal of troops from Namibia. There were heavy demands for housing, education facilities, medical care and job creation, he said.

• Natal deaths: Ten children were among 13 people burnt to death in feuding between black gangs vying for control of townships in Natal province (Reuters reports). Police

said yesterday that six boys, four girls and three women were killed when a mob set fire to two houses in the Cottontails township, near Durban in Natal. Two people were arrested.

The many townships spread over the lush Natal hills have been torn by continuous fighting between members of the Zulu-based Inkatha movement and supporters of the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid coalition.

Discord in Israel

Furore over Wagner revived

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Not since Zubin Mehta was booted off the podium in Tel Aviv eight years ago for trying to conduct music by Wagner has there been such a fuss about the relationship between the German composer's music and anti-Semitism.

The controversy re-emerged yesterday when Richard Wagner's great-grandson, Gottfried, told a conference at Tel Aviv University that the composer's music could not be described as anti-Semitic, even if some of his writings occasionally were. "I believe in the unity of German Jewish culture," Herr Wagner declared to an alternately sceptical and outraged audience.

The Israeli ban on the Ring cycle, *The Flying Dutchman* and other masterpieces stems partly from Wagner's explicit racial views. But it mainly springs from the fact that, long after his death, Hitler used Wagner's dark and majestic Teutonic motifs as musical accompaniment to the Nazi ideology of the master race.

Wagner's music is banned from Israeli radio and may not be played in concert halls. "Why should we revive terrible memories of the Holocaust?" one Israeli musician said yesterday.

But Herr Wagner, aged 42, who was born in Bayreuth, the home of Wagnerian opera, challenged the Israeli view in a controversial lecture entitled:

"Great-grandfather Wagner as I see him." He recalled that, as a boy, he had often been subject to the taunt of "Nazi pig" because of his ancestry.

But he had been shocked to the core to discover at the age of nine that the reason was that Wagner's music had been used for Nazi propaganda purposes. He was "truly ashamed" of any anti-Semitic expression in Wagner's writings, he said, but there was no case for suggesting that the spirit of anti-Semitism had entered his music.

"What about Wagner's call for an end to the existence of the Jewish people?" someone in the audience shouted. Herr Wagner replied that

everybody made contradictory statements and he could provide quotations from his great-grandfather that proved he also believed the opposite.

Despite the prospect of Israeli ties with a democratic East Germany as well as with West Germany, many Israelis still found it difficult to accept that Wagner's music, with all its emotive power, could be separated from its Nazi associations. Until the recent revolution, Romania had also banned Wagner as "fascist", but since Ceausescu's overthrow, Wagner's music can be played freely.

Judging by yesterday's future, no such reversal can be expected yet in Israel.

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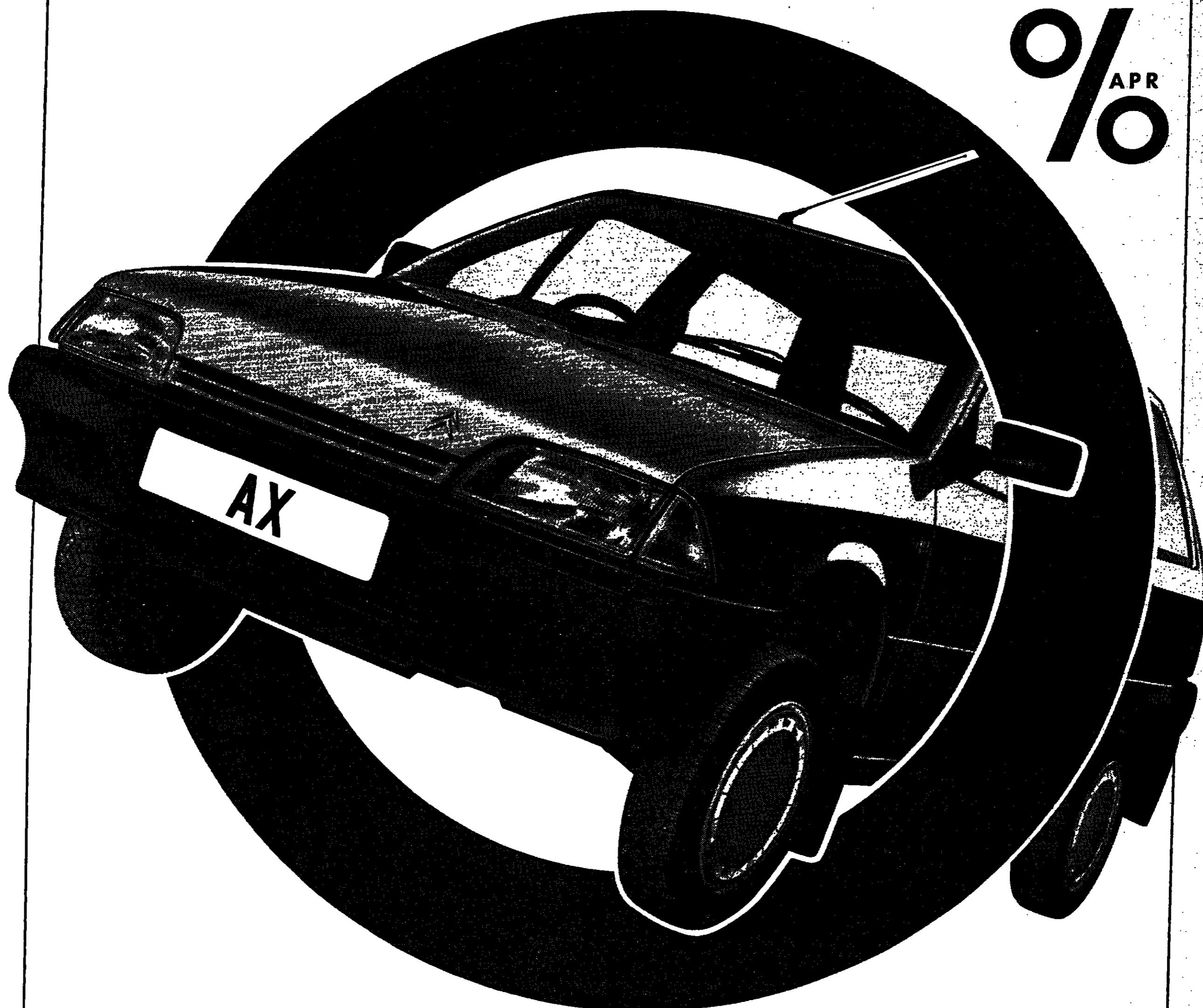
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Modrow retreats over unpopular plans for security

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

Herr Hans Modrow, East Germany's Prime Minister, yesterday moved to save his crumpling coalition by unexpectedly scrapping plans for a new security service.

His climb-down, one day after insisting that such a service was essential, came after his coalition partners added their protests to those of the opposition and threatened to leave Government if the plan went ahead.

The move followed days of intense criticism of the idea and culminated in a threat by three of the four minor parties which support the ruling communists to leave the coalition.

All the parties yesterday distanced themselves from the Socialist Unity (communist) Party, which they complained was trying to reassert its former dominant role.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Rasp, the deputy leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, told the Volkskammer (parliament): "We see how the Socialist Unity Party is still trying to satisfy its hunger for power. We will withdraw our mandate immediately if the proposal for an Office for the Protection of the Constitution go ahead."

In an unscheduled speech to the 500 parliamentary delegates, Herr Modrow said that no new security services would be formed before May 6, ruling out the establishment of the proposed Office for the Protection of the Constitution, as well as essential intelligence agencies.

He admitted that some

former Stasi workers were still spying on citizens, but said: "We have taken steps to make sure this does not happen again." The existing Office of National Security would be dissolved as quickly as possible, Herr Modrow said.

The pledges signify a major retreat by the Prime Minister after his speech on Thursday when he insisted that a new security service was necessary to tackle the rise of neo-Nazism. He was evidently shocked at the venom poured

Bonn (Reuter) — Most West Germans do not believe that Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, is serious about introducing reforms, according to an opinion poll published yesterday. The Wickett Institute polling organization said 87 per cent of those polled thought East Germans would have to hold more demonstrations to stop the communists undermining moves towards democracy.

on the plan over the last week, first by the opposition who threatened to withdraw from talks with the Government, and yesterday from the usually biddable coalition partners.

He was also known to be under pressure from inside the communist party, whose sources say that Herr Gregor Gysi, the popular leader, made clear his misgivings about security policy to Herr Modrow on Thursday.

Herr Gysi increased pressure on Herr Modrow by

giving an interview to a West German newspaper on Thursday saying that he was not sure whether the five-party coalition would last until the elections in the current climate of conflict.

There are widespread fears in the party that Herr Modrow, formerly regarded as a "people's man", is losing touch with the popular mood as he devotes more of his time to international affairs.

His economic policy was also criticized by the minor parties in the Volkskammer yesterday, who complained that economic reforms were not taking place fast enough.

Herr Modrow said special units of the police would carry on security work to combat right-wing extremism and terrorism until a new security policy is established by a consensus after the May elections.

He renewed his calls on the opposition to support the Government until then to restore stability.

Earlier, a protest by East Berlin's taxi drivers forced traffic around the Parliamentary building to a standstill. Nearly 300 Trabant taxis lined up, tooting their horns as their drivers protested that ex-Stasi workers were illegally driving taxis while still receiving controversial redundancy payments from the Government.

The drivers also demanded the establishment of free trade unions in the country and protested the authoritarian style of the communist party.

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East Germany opens gates for foreign investment

East Berlin (Reuter) — East Germany opened the floodgates to Western capital yesterday by lifting a ban on foreign investment and saying it might allow some outside firms to hold majority stakes in joint venture companies.

Parliament voted overwhelmingly to change the country's rigid constitution to allow foreign participation in East German businesses of all sizes, from huge state combines to tiny private firms.

Frau Christa Luft, the Economics Minister, told Parliament the Government would issue a decree regulating joint ventures in two weeks. This would be a temporary measure pending full legislation to be introduced after free elections later in the year.

Earlier Frau Uta Nickel, the Finance Minister, said the Government would consider exceptions to its planned 49 per cent ceiling on foreign

shareholdings, a limit which has been criticized in West Germany as not doing enough to attract investment.

Frau Luft said on West German television that exceptions were likely to include small and medium firms.

East Germany has communism's strongest economy, but is keen to attract foreign capital to bolster industries wilting because of outmoded factories and a dramatic westward exodus of disillusioned citizens.

Frau Nickel told reporters after meeting Herr Theo Waigel, West Germany's Finance Minister: "We will formulate basic rules. It must also be decided for which individual firms we will consider different regulations."

Herr Waigel said West German firms were clamouring to invest in East Germany but would not be satisfied with a 49 per cent limit.

"All forms of participation

are problematic," he said, "but 49 per cent participation will definitely not be enough to maintain the atmosphere that prevails in the markets at the moment and to allow capital to flow in the right direction."

Western economic experts said other reforming East European countries had also initially tried to keep majority stakes in joint ventures but had abandoned this rather than frighten away Western investors.

"Our impression has been for some time that if a joint venture is of particular interest, then the 49 per cent rule will be relaxed," said one Western diplomat, adding: "The word in West Germany is — don't wait for the law to be passed, get into the market now." He said West Germany's Volkswagen company already had a 50-50 deal with East Germany's IFA automobile concern.

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The imposition of Slavic names was part of a harsh campaign launched in 1984 by Mr Todor Zhivkov, Bulgaria's former ruler, to assimilate the country's ethnic Turkish minority force.

Mosques were closed, the Turkish language was banned in public places, and Islamic customs, among them ritual circumcision, were prohibited. Even the inscriptions on tombstones

● A policeman said: 'Your name will not be Suleyman any more. I did not like it, but I was afraid to resist.'

in Turkish cemeteries were to be in Turkish.

"I was fined many times for speaking Turkish with friends in public," Mr Mumunov said. "I was not even supposed to talk in Turkish with Turkish-speaking customers in the store where I work."

It was in the shop that we first met Mr Mumunov. The manager, a formidable

woman in leather boots and padded anorak, came up at once and broke into our conversation, insisting that all Turks had voluntarily accepted new names.

"You want to go back to your Turkish name," she told Mr Mumunov, "you will have to find another job."

Women shoppers quickly gathered round and began berating the increasingly nervous Turk. "What is so dreadful?" one of them shouted. "In America everyone has to have American names." Told this was not true, she seemed genuinely astonished and shocked.

Later, over a cup of coffee in the cafe, Semra Yunozova, an unemployed Turkish primary school teacher, said that circumcised children were often not admitted to schools or even to hospitals unless their parents could produce evidence that they had been circumcised before 1984.

Mounting tensions exploded last spring in bloody clashes between ethnic Turks and Bulgarian security forces, and about 310,000 Bulgarian Turks poured across the border into Turkey during a three-month period, an exodus ended only because Turkey closed the border in late August. Since then about 90,000 Turkish refugees have returned after being unable to find work in Turkey.

Exactly how many Bulgarians of Turkish descent there are here is uncertain. Out of a total predominantly Christian population of nearly nine million, some 1.5 million are estimated to be Muslims.

That total includes several hundred thousand Muslims known as Pomaks, ethnic Bulgarians forced to drop their Turkish names as long ago as the early 1970s. But it is the much larger and faster-growing Turkish minority that is seen as the threat to Bulgarian identity.

After the removal of Mr Zhivkov last November 10, the new reformist Communist Party leadership of Mr Petar Mladenov made a top priority of the reversal of the previous policy.

On December 29, the leadership issued a statement promising an end to the name-changing campaign and the restoration of full cultural and religious rights to the Muslim minority.

It was this announcement which provoked a Bulgarian nationalist backlash. Demonstrations began in Kardzhali, which lies not 40 miles north of the Turkish border and has a population of 60,000 which is three-fifths Turkish speaking. The unrest then spread to Sofia and other cities, continuing every day for a week.

There has been a lull in the demonstrations this week during government-

Navy veterans in a submarine graveyard



Laid to rest: Eight Soviet submarines await their final fate — to be sold for scrap — on a barge in Rotterdam's petroleum harbour. All sensitive instruments and equipment were removed from the 30-year-old submarines by the Soviet Navy before they were shipped to a scrap metal dealer in The Netherlands.

Secession in the Soviet Union

Central power threatened by disarray

By Geoffrey Hosking

President Gorbachov's announcement that a law is being drafted to allow individual republics to secede from the Soviet Union makes it clear that the waves he set in motion in Eastern Europe are flowing back and threaten to engulf him and his party.

Elections to the local and republican soviets, which have already started in some areas and continue until March, seem likely to aggravate the disarray of the Soviet Union. The secessionists are bound to do well in most if not all the non-Russian republics.

The two political forces which stand to lose most are the party-state apparatus and the Russians. In the early stages of perestroika they did not see eye to eye, as Russian patriots held the largely Stalinist apparatus responsible for the disasters which have overtaken their nation under Communist rule.

Nevertheless, there are logical reasons why Russians should side with the party-state apparatus in trying to prevent the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The Russians are traditionally the "imperial" people; their administrative and military cadres, their language and culture, unite and hold together this disparate empire.

At the end of last month they issued a manifesto which quotes, with only one word changed, the challenge issued

by Pyotr Stolypin in 1907 to separatists and revolutionaries: "What we need is not great upheavals, but a great Soviet Russia!"

"The Fatherland is in Danger!" they warn. "The deepening political crisis has placed in doubt the existence of a thousand-year old state ... The Soviet Communist Party, which is still the guarantee of political and social stability in the country, has in motion those who do not want to lose their protection altogether."

The manifesto recommends a return to the traditions of the *artel*, the Russian working man's cooperative of the nineteenth century, to which each member pooled his capital or labour and from which he received a share of the profits.

The manifesto accepts that the Soviet Union will be at a much looser federation than at present. That at least means, in the authors' eyes, that Russians will no longer be subsidizing the other republics, to the detriment of their own well-being.

It also means that the Russian Republic should reassert its own national institutions. Hitherto, while the Latvians, Georgians and Uzbeks have had their own radio and television, Academy of Sciences, capital cities, and Communist Parties, the Rus-

sians have had to make do with the all-Union equivalents. If the Russians are no longer to have an empire, they want to make sure they are at least a nation in the full sense of the word.

Is it possible that Mr Gorbachov might be attracted by this programme? It makes no mention of human rights, the rule of law or pluralism. It is opposed to weakening Soviet defences or opening the media to Western influences. In these respects the Russian Unionists are going in the opposite direction from Mr Gorbachov.

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How name-calling provoked a nationalist backlash in Bulgaria

From Michael Hornsby
Kardzhali, Bulgaria

January 7, 1985, is etched in the memory of Mr Suleyman Mumunov, a young Turkish-speaking watchmaker in this south-eastern Bulgarian town. Sitting nervously at a table in a shabby cafe, he recalled in a low voice the events of that day five years ago.

"Two armed policemen and one plain-clothes man came to the flat where I live with my family and my sister's family," he said. "One of the policemen said: 'Your name will not be Suleyman anymore. From now on you will have a Bulgarian name.' The police ordered us to hand over our identity cards and went away."

A week later the families' identity cards were returned filled out with the new names. From these the young watchmaker learned that he was now to be known as Mr Boyan Martinov. "I did not like it, but I was afraid to resist. You cannot fight red-hot iron with bare hands."

Many Turks in the villages in the Kardzhali area were, however, prepared to resist, red-hot iron or not. To no avail. Uprisings were crushed by troops in armoured personnel-carriers; the number of people killed and wounded has

never been established, but is likely to have been high.

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Mosques were closed, the Turkish language was banned in public places,

and Islamic customs, among them ritual circumcision, were prohibited. Even the inscriptions on tombstones

were replaced by Slavic names.

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There has been a lull in the demonstrations this week during government-

sponsored talks between rival factions, but the atmosphere remains tense. Ethnic Bulgarians here say they will take to the streets again unless the December 29 decision is rescinded.

Anti-Turkish feeling has deep roots in Bulgarian folk memories of the "Turkish yolk", the 500 years of Turkish occupation which ended in 1878 in most areas, but continued in the south-eastern region along the border until 1913.

Mr Kaloyan Kaloyanov, a Bulgarian

● Our efforts to teach them Bulgarian are wasted because they go home and speak Turkish.

of Greek origin who runs a shop selling cheap toiletries in Kardzhali, said he had taken part in the demonstrations daily.

"I don't mind so much what names they have, but if you make concessions the Turks will make more demands. We are afraid the Turkish Army will come over the border and try and take this part of the country back again," he said.

He said his own grandparents had

been killed in a massacre by Turkish troops in Greece at the start of the century. Also, he said, the Turks were very fanatical and tight-knit. What if his daughter should want to marry a Turk? "She could marry an Englishman, a Belgian, a Canadian — anybody, but please God, not a Turk."

Some observers here see the ethnic issue as reflecting a power struggle between the provincial Communist Party apparatus, which is still

such proceedings should be not just to management but to the main victims of the strikes — the customers. This approach would be even-handed. It would maintain justice in the workplace. It would be decent, non-inflationary. It would leave better legacies left by action. It would replace wrong methods of conflict resolution. More than anything, it would convert the negotiations into a joint search for constructive solutions rather than the battle for advantages that exists in the state sector at the moment.

Politics was once described as the art of the possible. For the negotiation is clearly the art of the plausible. But governments — that is to say, the art of the practical — is that reason the strike would be replaced with cultural arbitration.

David Davis, Conservative MP for Bexleyheath, is author of *The Power of the Pendulum* (Cassell Policy Studies).



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

GORBACHOV'S GAMBLE

In Vilnius, President Gorbachov is so far playing a difficult hand with considerable skill. The Central Committee delegation which travelled to Lithuania ahead of him to take the temperature clearly advised him, as he doubtless already knew, that the new-found popularity of the Lithuanian Communist Party stemmed entirely from its decision to break away from the CPSU; and that the rump of the party remaining loyal to Moscow commanded little or no support. The question of party unity was closed. So, in principle, was the question of Lithuania's eventual independence from the Soviet Union — since the Lithuanian party is committed to seeking it.

Before leaving Moscow, therefore, Mr Gorbachov evidently set in train, in the relevant committee of the Supreme Soviet, the drafting of legislation to regulate the modalities of secession. Announcing this in Vilnius, he apparently hopes to transform a situation of confrontation into one of negotiation; and to concentrate Lithuanian minds on the full implications of the course on which they have embarked.

With the victory of principle won, the Lithuanians will have to recognize the difficulties of simply getting up and walking out of the Union. There is a whole skein of laws and contracts to be unravelled first, affecting every dimension of Lithuanian life and reflecting over 40 years of involuntary incorporation into the Soviet state and economy.

Mr Gorbachov will aim to play this process long. The draft law on republican secession will have to be prepared, published, debated and — perhaps — passed into law by the Supreme Soviet. Negotiations would then begin between the Lithuanians and the central Union authorities on this basis. They would be complex. The Union authorities would hold strong cards, deriving from Lithuania's present dependence on the Union for the energy and raw materials without which its economy would grind to a halt.

If the end result were seen to be secession, the Union would no longer have its current and considerable interest in the maintenance of Lithuania's exporting capacity. A bargain could be struck for a more or less amicable separation, but it would be a tough one. Mr

SAVING THE YANOMANI

The Brazilian's Government's abrupt decision to allow 45,000 illegal gold prospectors to stay in the north-west Amazon region of Roraima overturns a court order, violates the Brazilian constitution and threatens an endangered people with genocide. For more than 10,000 years, the Yanomani Indians have inhabited the remote uplands straddling the borders of Brazil and Venezuela. A Stone Age culture of semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers who also practice subsistence agriculture, they lived in perfect harmony with the rain forest.

The Brazilian constitution bans commercial activity in Indian reserves without the approval of both Congress and the tribes concerned. The havoc wrought on the Yanomani's culture and environment since 1983, when their lands were first illegally invaded by freelance gold prospectors, speaks for the wisdom of that provision. With the connivance of the military (which favours opening up the "last frontier") it has been repeatedly violated by corrupt local officials. It has also been violated by the Brazilian Government itself, which last year reduced Yanomani land by 70 per cent — a decree since declared unconstitutional by the federal court.

The Brazilian gold rush threatens the Yanomani with extinction. Their numbers have dwindled to between 5,000 and 9,000. No precise estimates are available of how many have died from diseases brought by the *garimpeiros* — tuberculosis, venereal disease and river blindness — and to which the Yanomani have no resistance. The Government was, however, forced last month by irrefutable evidence of a malaria epidemic to allocate £1 million for emergency medical care.

The miners attack riverbeds and banks with high-pressure jets, causing them to sift up. The oil and mercury they use in panning have killed off the fish, and the burnt-off mercury

DRIVING A BARGAIN

The complaint of the European Consumers' Union that motorists in Britain are being overcharged for new cars compared with other parts of the European Community illustrates just how far apart the theory and practice of a common market in goods and services can be. The difference in price charged for the same model in Britain and elsewhere is apparently still widening. Average prices before tax are said to be 31 per cent higher in Britain than in Belgium.

There are complex reasons why the British customer has been prepared to tolerate such exorbitant prices, and a major influence must be that over half of all new cars in Britain are company cars. This has blunted the edge of consumer awareness. The reason why free market forces have not been able to correct such an obvious anomaly is simpler — there is no Europe-wide free market in new cars. Manufacturers, distributors and dealers have found various ways of protecting the vested interests they have in things staying as they are.

There is no evidence of an explicit cartel, but there are all sorts of unwritten understandings, amounting to a common approach, which is producing something not so different in its effect. The British car market offers favourable profit margins both to foreign and British manufacturers, and it is in almost no one's interests — except of course the consumer's — to kill the goose that is so reliably laying such golden eggs.

A simple market theory that if the shop next door is offering the same goods at a lower price, it will attract the custom and force its competitors to respond. But so far none of the major car manufacturers, British or foreign, has seized the opportunity presented by the

Gorbachov is doing his best to bring this harsh reality home to the Lithuanians. He has told them, in no uncertain terms, to look before they leap; and to think hard about survival in world markets without Soviet subsidies.

Mr Gorbachov's gamble is twofold. The first is that the inevitably drawn-out process of a legal and orderly divorce will be a sufficiently attractive scenario to ensure the success of the Lithuanian communists in next month's elections to the Soviets. The Sajudis nationalist movement is already questioning Mr Gorbachov's sincerity and could carry the elections on a "don't trust Moscow — secession now!" ticket.

This might result in civil disorders of sufficient gravity to raise the issue of forcible intervention which Mr Gorbachov is doing his utmost to avoid — but which might then be the condition of his own political survival. His second gamble is that whatever deal he is able to strike with the Lithuanian communists — "secede if you must but not yet" — will be sufficient to enable him to weather his Central Committee's plenum at the end of this month. The prospect of the Lithuanian coast in non-Soviet hands, of civil disorders, or both, will ring alarm bells among the military and the conservatives.

The question is no longer whether Lithuania will secede but when and how. Must this inevitably lead to the progressive disintegration of the Soviet Union and its reduction to a "fortress Russia"? Not necessarily. Estonia and Latvia, with their significantly larger Russian minorities, would find secession a tougher proposition in terms of their own internal politics. The spectacle of Lithuania in deep economic crisis, beyond alleviation by Western aid, would be a powerful disincentive, Baltic solidarity notwithstanding. Every other non-Russian republic would face even more acute and complex problems than Lithuania in going it alone.

Having accepted the inevitability of constitutional change, Mr Gorbachov's task is now to manage it. If his double gamble in Vilnius succeeds, he may be able to preside over the orderly transformation of the Soviet Union into a Soviet Federation. If it does not, his own future and that of *perestroika* are bleak.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS, Director,
Aims of Industry,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.

January 10.

Poll tax burden on businesses

From the Director of

Aims of Industry

Sir, Under legislation introducing the community charge, employers will be responsible for collecting arrears of defaulters, as a result of deduction of earnings orders made by local authorities. This raises an important issue of principle — that of making the employer responsible for decisions which should be taken by the individual.

Collection of national insurance contributions, pay-as-you-earn, and deductions of earnings for maintenance already force the employer to act for the individual employer — and add to the employer's costs. The time has come to end this expansion which makes the employer a combination of bailiff and debt-collector.

The proposals in the community charge go further than any existing practice in that employers will be required to deal with various local authorities and to make complex calculations for deductions for each pay period. There has been no consultation by the Government with business, and many small employers without sophisticated computer software will find themselves in difficulties in deduction of the payments.

Some individuals will refuse to pay the poll tax on political grounds. They may be wrong, but the employers should not be required to solve the Government's and local authorities' problems.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS, Director,
Aims of Industry,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.

January 10.

Polling in the aisles

From the Reverend Canon

RICHARD HENDERSON

Sir, For years, as vicar of St Mary's, I have been teaching that the church is not a building but people. Now I have been hoisted with my own petard. S. M. Church has received a request for the payment of the community charge. Do I pay £400 in the interests of theological truth, or tell the registration officer that S. M. Church is a building?

Yours etc,

ROY HENDERSON,

S. M. Vicarage,

Stoke Bishop,

Bristol, Avon.

January 10.

All about Brahm

From Sir Thomas Armstrong

Sir, It is reported in today's issue, under the heading "Cycling through Brahm's", that Gerhard Oppitz is to play the whole of Brahm's solo piano music in four recitals in London: comment is made on the rarity of this hazardous adventure.

It is perhaps not inappropriate to recall that many years ago I arranged a summer school for piano teachers in Feltwell and invited Donald Tovey (1875-1940) to come one morning to give a talk on Brahm's piano music.

Tovey was then living in retirement, not far away, old and ailing, but still eager to cooperate. "I'll come", he said, "not for one morning, but for all five mornings, and will play all Brahm's piano music, with comments". And this is what he unfortunately did.

There were many wrong notes; there were lapses of memory, covered up by periods of skillful improvisation, for which Tovey apologized frankly. His comments, wide-ranging, penetrating, and often illuminated brightly by personal reminiscences were far from uncritical, I wish they could have been recorded. Anybody who listened attentively was unlikely ever to forget the experience.

How sad it is that the genius of this extra-ordinary man is so inadequately recognized and in danger of being entirely forgotten!

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS ARMSTRONG,

1 East Street, Olney,

Buckinghamshire.

January 9.

Quick passport

From Mr F. O. Marsh

Sir, On Friday, December 22, at 1300 hours I walked into the Passport Office, Petty France, queuing, not necessary, and handed in my used passport, passport renewal form, photographs and cheque and left at 1307. On Tuesday, January 9, I collected my new passport at midday and was in and out of the Passport Office in less than five minutes. Total time 12 minutes.

Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK O. MARSH,

Marsh Business Services,

Suite 4, 40 Buckingham Gate,

Westminster, SW1.

January 10.

Riding in the Row

From Mr Eric Westbrook

Sir, Mr Gerald Leach (January 9) expresses his disappointment with the standard of dress of riders in Rotten Row. But he is wrong to assume that the only well turned-out riders are officers of the Household Cavalry.

The Civil Service Riding Club has a membership of nearly 300, was founded in 1937, and rides daily throughout the year in Rotten Row. Its dress regulations for riding in Hyde Park call for riders to wear hacking jacket, collar and tie, riding breeches or jodhpurs, and the appropriate footwear. The only real difference between our regulations and the clothes worn 30 years ago by Mr

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tory rift on links with Europe

From Mr Derek Prag, MEP for

Hertfordshire (European

Democrat (Conservative)

Sir, One expects from a former chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr Tebbit (article, January 9) a determination to cool tempers and narrow rather than widen any rifts he may perceive between sectors of the party. Conservative members of the European Parliament are the European Community wing of the party, and the need of the small band of 32 Conservatives to work in close and confident cooperation with our centre right partners, if we are to achieve anything, does not make us anything other than loyal British Conservatives.

374 Conservative MPs and 32 Conservative MEPs to think exactly alike on Europe — or, thank heavens, on anything else. Party views emerge from constructive conflict between people who, in general, share similar attitudes on the fundamentals. On the subject of the future of the European Community, I see no reason at all for fundamental discord within the party — and certainly no reason for exacerbating differences instead of overcoming them. Our business is to win elections, not lose them.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK PRAG,

97-113 rue Belliard,

1040 Brussels, Belgium.

January 11.

From Mr Frank Paton

Sir, The "Independent Britain" for

which Norman Tebbit argues so passionately holds little attraction to my family of five children, now

aged between 29 and 17 years.

During their lifetimes they have seen British interest rates remain among the highest in the world, house prices rise to among the highest in the Western world, the evolution of the least effective state primary education service in the European Community, the withholding of funds to research establishments and universities, the clogging of our roads and cities with fume-emitting traffic, and the acceptance of an outdated, inefficient and dirty public transport system.

They see all this and more in a working environment where financial services become better paid and better respected than wealth-creation in the manufacturing industries.

There are two alternatives for their future either to build a new and vibrant Britain as a leading partner in the European Community, or indeed anywhere for any of their own countries. Europe's attraction lies in its very diversity.

Any attribution of new powers to the Community can come only through agreement — by all 12 member states. In other words, if we don't want something, it can't happen to us. And the Community can wield only "conferred powers" — those powers which have been granted to it.

Of course, you cannot expect all

Airbus dispute

From Lord Dowding

Sir, As a lifelong (though sometimes disillusioned) supporter of the aircraft industry in this country, I am dismayed by the AEU strike against British Aerospace (leading article, January 11).

Until the formation of Airbus Industrie, the passenger-transport section had been dominated by the American aircraft industry. Airbus was conceived, formed and generated entirely by the French. How I do wish it could have been the British! Our Government ducked the issue. Hawker-Siddeley alone had the guts to take a 20 per cent stake in the

project to build the outline of the wings.

As a result, perhaps undeservedly, we do still have a foot in the most advanced and imaginative aviation operation of the last two decades. Only Airbus can challenge Boeing in the 1990s. We are about to throw all this away.

How can the unions jeopardise this project? I do not know how many jobs will be lost when the work is transferred to Europe. I do know that it will be another nail in our coffin.

Yours sincerely,
DOWDING, Managing Director,
Robinson UK Limited,
Plantation House - D7,
31/35 Fenchurch Street, EC3.

of the rate agreed for the workforce.

The latter might, however, in future respond if their bosses would publicly state that they would take no pay rise in excess of inflation and, better still, take nothing extra for a year. The same should equally apply to members of Parliament who, though not top people, are always forcing their views on the public. Such a self-denying ordinance might help to achieve what is so evidently and urgently needed: the example has to come from the top.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ACLAND,
Feniton Court,
Feniton, Devon.

January 11.

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Yours faithfully,
ALAN WRIGHT (Director
and Head of Programmes,
Chrysalis Television),
PETER WEIL (Editor,
See For Yourself,
BBC Television),
Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12.

January 11.

In the wrong order?

From Dr J. A. Riddle

Sir, You report (January 5) that Her Majesty has been pleased to honour the efforts of Han Manfred Krommel in the reconciliation of our countries. While undoubtedly fully deserved, was not the choice of the Most



SIMON BARNES

Sydney is one of the greatest and most ambiguous forces in sport. And science has given sport an exciting and potentially alarming substance: one that improves performance, gives a vital psychological edge over the opposition, and does the most sensational things to your body. Nor is it illegal: in fact, the Australians are flaunting their belief in this stuff of miracles. It is called *lycra*, from which the whizziest sports clothes are now made.

Lyra shines and shimmers; it clings to convexities and concavities; it covers but never conceals. If you want to see state-of-the-art *lycra*, be prepared for the Australian swimming team at the Commonwealth Games next week. The swimming coozies break away from the traditional Australian green and gold: they are black, lit up with flashes of lime-green and neon yellow. "This is a tremendous psych-up for the team," said their head coach, Don Talbot. "With the overall tally likely to be close, especially against Canada, something like this can tip the balance our way." Talbot's sentiments were echoed by a competitor, Lisa Curry: "In past Olympics or Commonwealth Games we have lined up and felt like dogs. If you look good, you feel good, and that's important."

Oh, and here is some more important news: Australia's synchronized swimming team will wear sequins over a "dolphin print". I have made a New Year's resolution never to say another unkind word about synchro, so I must move on at once.

If you go to Australia you must be prepared for a disinclination to cater for English sensibilities, but all the same, I wish I had known in advance that cricket coverage on Channel 9 would be presented by Tony Greig in a silly hat. It's made of straw and would sit well on a cowboy. The old *bête noir* of the English game (former England captain, lest we forget) looks pleased with the hat, pleased with life and most particularly pleased with A.W. Greig.

He will not, I hope, be commenting on the largest game of cricket ever to be played in Wellington on Tuesday. Each side will have 150 players, captained respectively by Margaret Shields, a New Zealand cabinet minister, and the Western Samoan consul-general, Lai'ulu Fetauina'aleman Mata'afa. The game is a curtain-raiser to a 15-a-side tournament of Pacific cricket, which is the islanders' adaptation of the game involving rubber balls, concrete pitches and bats shaped like war-clubs. The Samoans call it *kirkiki* and were introduced to the game by 19th century missionaries hoping to substitute it for inter-village warfare. Whole villages still sometimes travel to play, and there are week-long matches. German colonists tried to ban the game, but it lives on, under varying rules, not only in Samoa, but in the Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia and even Yankee Hawaii.

BARRY FANTONI



The most beleaguered sportsman in Australia this week is unquestionably Bob Hawke, whose day job involves being prime minister. He has been taking part in a pro-am golf tournament, and it has not been easy. Pilots involved in the apparently endless saga of their industrial dispute hired a plane to persecute Hawke while he was trying to play a round alongside Greg Norman. As he teed off in front of a gallery of 1,500 people, the plane appeared, trailing a slogan that read: "Hawke's airline wars waste your taxes." The plane made a later appearance, this time telling the world: "Foreign scabs Hawke's shame." Finally, Hawke was buzzed while putting on the 18th green. He was, I am told, striking the ball with unusual venom.

Henry Blofeld, the English cricket commentator, has long had a love affair with Australia. That this is in some measure reciprocated is shown by the fact that Blofeld is sometimes credited with the oldest and hoariest Australian joke in existence: the immigration joke. "Do you have a criminal record?" the incoming passenger is asked. "Oh, my dear old thing, I didn't realize it was still compulsory."

You, and I, appear anonymously in hundreds of snapshots. For it is impossible to walk in London without blundering across the viewfinders of a dozen tourists at the instant their cameras click.

And what about the Yorkshire Ripper? This man, too, must lurk unrecognized in scores of family albums. Such documents constitute a set, scattered beyond collection, yet logically intact.

This week I was reminded of another mysterious set: the 20,000 (or so) written replies to members of the public which went out between 1977 and 1979 from the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Thatcher. They went in the name of her correspondence secretary – me.

On Thursday the House discussed the ambulance dispute. Busy with my parliamentary sketch, I wandered from the Press Gallery, nodding at a knot of

Pendulum way to industrial common sense

David Davis urges compulsory arbitration in monopoly pay disputes

The protracted agonies of the ambulance dispute continue to divide opinion, even among Conservative MPs. The public does not like to see the ambulance workers on strike and to be fair to them, most crews probably hate being on strike. So why on earth do we allow such a situation to arise?

Why can we not devise a system that encourages fair resolution of disputes by methods other than a fight to the finish? Why can we not resolve disputes in a way that rewards reasonableness instead of motivating militancy? For we can be sure of one thing: the ambulance workers' dispute will not be the last in the public sector.

There is an alternative which can avoid these messy, protracted and damaging disputes a fair and successful system of arbitration. But traditional arbitration has severe pitfalls. In order to get a better deal, both parties avoid making concessions early. Many negotiators believe that arbitrators split the difference and pitch their last bids high or low accordingly.

At present, they are asking for 11.4 per cent. This is the classic tactic employed by trade unions in protracted disputes. It would appear that Roger Poole, the union negotiator, is more interested in winning the PR battle than in resolving the dispute.

To deal with these problems the method of pendulum arbitration was developed, under which the arbitrator must choose one final offer – he cannot split the difference. This encourages negotiations to bargain as far as possible, before invoking a procedure which is extremely uncertain, and to devise a "more

reasonable" final offer than that of the other side to maximize its own chance of winning. The arbitrator's decision is publicly stated and publicly justified, just like a court judgment.

The procedure is designed to be uncomfortable. The arbitrator is denied the easy compromise. The negotiators face the possibility of outright loss. But it is this very discomfort that is the key to the method's success, by encouraging both sides to bargain constructively in order to avoid it. Like any deterrent system, it works best when it is not actually invoked – when it forces a negotiated solution.

The system is extremely flexible. The arbitrator's criteria, which would also be public, can be designed to reflect any practical consideration. Hence, pay differentials and reaction to varying local pressure can easily be incorporated into the procedure which each side submits to the arbitrator. The proposal

could even be regional rather than national.

The pendulum system is no theoretical pipe-dream. It is currently in use in both the United States and Britain. In the US, public sector industrial strikes are illegal in all but nine states. Arbitration is mandatory in 20 states, of which 10 use conventional arbitration, eight use pendulum arbitration, and two use both.

In Britain, no-strike and pendulum arbitration agreements have been adopted in more than 30 companies, including Cadbury, though they are typically associated with companies under progressive Japanese management. Neither is it confined to high-tech industries; the port of Immingham on Humber-side has a no-strike agreement with its dockers.

One omission from the Government's latest Green Paper on Employment Law – which perhaps should have been included – was any explicit way of dealing

such proceedings should be open not just to management, but to the main victims of monopoly strikes – the customers.

This approach would be fair and even-handed. It would maintain justice in the workplace. It would be decisive, but non-inflationary. It would be constructive, in contrast to the bitter legacies left by strike action. It would replace "might is right" methods of conflict resolution with the rule of reason. More than anything, it would convert the negotiation process into a joint search for constructive solutions, rather than the battle for advantage that exists in the state sector at the moment.

Politics was once described as the art of the possible. For Poole, negotiation is clearly the art of the plausible. But government is the art of the practical, and for that reason the strike weapon should be replaced by pendulum arbitration.

David Davis, Conservative MP for Boothferry, is author of *The Power of the Pendulum* (Centre for Policy Studies).

Why East and West must stay apart

West Berlin

What used to be a moderate sense of German nationhood is giving way to nationalist emotion. Our neighbours watch with anxiety, even with alarm, as Germans recklessly talk themselves into the will to unity.

Day by day, the people of East Germany are struggling for greater freedom and razing the bastions of a hated system by non-violent means. This is an event unique in German history. But these events are in danger of being overshadowed as West German politicians demand the stage, and with it the spotlight. The Bonn government, with Theo Waigel, the minister of finance, in the vanguard, drapes its cornucopia in glittering promises, then dangles it ever higher, demanding that the revolutionaries take ever riskier leaps to reach it.

Meanwhile Chancellor Kohl, with an eye on the elections later this year, offered a 10-point reunification programme, wrapped in statesmanlike oratory, that met with wide applause. Contradictions and omissions, such as the refusal to recognize without qualification Poland's western borders, were overlooked. But disenchantment soon set in. For no one can ever again permit such a concentration of power in the heart of Europe. Certainly the great powers cannot – nor can the Poles, the Dutch or the Danes.

But neither can we Germans. Because there can be no demand for a new version of a unified nation that, in the course of barely 75 years, though under several managements, has filled the history books with millions of dead and millions of refugees, with rubble, defeat and the burden of crimes that can never be undone.

We should learn from our compatriots in East Germany, for they were not given freedom as a gift, as were the citizens of the Federal Republic, but have had to wrest their freedom from an all-embracing system. They have had to struggle to achieve it on their own, while we West Germans stand amid our riches, yet poor by comparison.

So what is this boast that West Germans know better about democracy than our grade on the first exam in satisfactory at best? What is this exultation at the corruption that has come to light in East Germany when stench clings to our own system?

And measured against the modest wishes of those we presume to call the have-nots on the other side, what is this imperiousness incarnate in the person of Helmut Kohl?

Consider the possibilities that were open to East Germany after 1945 and their present-day effects. No sooner had greater Germany's systematic coercion lost its power than the Stalinist system took hold with new, though familiar forms of coercion. Economically exploited by



Günter Grass, the West German novelist, urges help for the new nation arising beyond the rubble of the Wall, but sees reunification as an exercise in self-delusion

make room for further German-German advances. But with one precondition: the renunciation of any unified state.

Union with East Germany by annexation would involve losses that could never be made good.

For the citizens of a subsumed state, there would be nothing left of their hard-earned identity – achieved at last at the cost of exemplary struggle.

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Up to 150

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

I will give them a heart and I will give a new spirit within you and I will take the stone heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh.
Ezekiel 11: 19

BIRTHS

ANNEN - On January 10th, to Anna (neé Butler-Cole) and Steve, a daughter, Amanda Joy.

BALDWIN - On January 10th, at Royal Gwent Hospital, Chepstow, Gwent, a son, Nicholas, George, a brother for Glyn and Oliver.

BARNHORN - On January 8th, 1990, at Pendbury Hospital, Kent, to Elizabeth (neé Parker) and Paul, a daughter, Kathryn Laura, a sister for Caroline.

BARTHORN - On Tuesday January 9th, to Sarah (neé Van Weede) and Alasdair, a son, Nicholas, George, a brother for Glyn and Oliver.

CARRE - On January 8th, 1990, at Pendbury Hospital, Kent, to Elizabeth (neé Parker) and Paul, a daughter, Natasha Anna.

BONHORN - On December 13th, to Helen (neé Lewis) and Anthony, a daughter, Lucy Mary Ingeborg, a sister for Michael and Philippa.

BONHORN - On December 1st, 1989, in New York, to Dennis and Linda, a daughter, Alexandra Eleanor.

BONHORN - On January 2nd, 1990, to Sara and Nigel, a son, Alastair, a brother for James.

BONHORN - On January 11th, 1990, to Linda (neé Thompson) and Peter, a daughter, Natasha.

BARTHORN - On January 11th, 1990, to Nicola and Andrew, a son, Alex David.

BARTHORN - On January 11th, 1990, to Ann (neé Summer) and Steven, a daughter, Alice May.

BONHORN - On January 11th, 1990, to Karen (neé Morrison) and Colin, a son, a brother for Lucy, Clare and Katty.

BONHORN - On January 11th, 1990, at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, to Jane (neé Adams) and Michael, a son, Rebecca Jane, a sister for Brian.

BONHORN - On January 11th, 1990, to Linda (neé Thompson) and Peter, a daughter, Alice May.

BONHORN - On January 11th, 1990, to John Head (neé Fox) and E.V. Fox, a son, James Robert, a brother for Christopher.

MARRIAGES

WALKERS-NORREY - On January 6th, at Eddisbury, Mr and Mrs John Walker, to Mrs Eleanor Norrey (nee Bednarz).

RUBY
ANNIVERSARIES

THOMPSON-SUTTON - Leonard to Janette at St John's Church, Umholt, Rhos-on-Sea, January 14th 1990. Now at Tidhurst, Bexley.

DEATHS

BATHO - On January 12th, 1990, in his 80th year, at home after a short illness, of carcinoma of the rectum. Salford, moved to London, leaving of Anne, Peter, Richard and Jacqueline, and much loved grandfather. Funeral service on Wednesday January 17th at 2 pm followed by private interment at Caversham Park Cemetery, Bath.

WOLFENDEN - On December 27th, 1989, peacefully in Hospital, to Jane (neé Adams) and Michael, a son, Rebecca Jane, a sister for Brian.

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CHARLESON - On January 1st, 1990, in London, Jane (neé Adams) and Michael, a son, Richard and Jean Charleson of Edinburgh and a dear brother of Kenneth, and a dear son, John, and a dear daughter, Jane, have taken place in Edinburgh at his request. A Memorial Service to be held in London to be announced later.

GRAY - On January 11th, Dorothy Maude (Dawn, widow of Horace Richard Gray, and mother of her 94th year. Funeral service and interment at St Peter's Church, Merton.

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BOWLING - On January 12th, peacefully in her 85th year, Brenda Maude, aged 89 years, much loved mother of Martin and Joanne, St Nicholas Church, Alexandra Road, Sunderland, on Thursday January 18th at 11 am.

GRIFFIN - On January 12th, peacefully, Josephine Albertine, at Eketon Nursing Home, Tewkesbury, aged 93. Much loved mother of Brynne, Bomi to David, Christine, Richard and Jonathan, Great-Grandmother of Christopher, Nicholas and George, great-great-grandmother of Christopher at Hanworth Crematorium on Tuesday January 23rd at 11:30 am. "happily to the Lord".

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COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 12: The Princess of Wales opened the new Headquarters of Childline, London. Mrs James Lonsdale and Lieutenant Commander Patrick Jephson, RN, were in attendance.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Craigie Aitchison, painter, 64; Air Marshal Sir John Baker-Carr, 84; Sir John Biles-Petersen, former Premier of Queensland, 79; Mr Richard Blackford, composer, 36; Mr Michael Bond, author and creator of Paddington Bear, 64; Dr Sydney Brenner, CH, molecular biologist, 63; Lady Donnison of Kimberley, author, 83; Mr Stephen Hough, snooker player, 21; Mr Olaf Lambert, vice-president, AA, 65; Sir Alan Lubbock, former chairman, County Councils Association, 93; Mr Ronan Rafferty, golfer, 26; Mr Bernard Shrimley, journalist, 59; Mr K.C. Turpin, former vice-chancellor, Oxford University, 75; Lord Willis, 72.

TOMORROW: Captain Sir Alastair Aird, royal engineer, 59; Professor Sir Melville Attiwill, cardiologist, 81; Mr Peter Barkworth, actor, 61; Mr Richard Briers, actor, 56; Baroness Brooke of Ystradgynlais, 82; Lord Catto, 67; Miss Faye Dunaway, actress, 45; Miss Mairi Greig, ballerina, 45; Miss Andre Greifell, former managing director, Glemby International, 50; Sir Arthur Hoole, former president, Law Society, 66; Professor Sir Hans Krebs, biochemist, 62; Mr Warren Mitchell, actor, 64; Mr Trevor Nunn, theatre director, 50; Sir Neil Prichard, diplomat, 79; Mr C.R. Reeves, banker, 54; Sir Vernon Seccombe, chairman, South Western Regional Health Authority, 62; Sir John Woodcock, HM Inspector of Constabulary, 58.

Receptions

HM Government
Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Edinburgh Castle for members of the Japanese business community in Scotland.

Acer Group Limited
Mr Gwilym Roberts and Mr Eric Bridgen, Acer Group Chairman and Chief Executive respectively, were hosts at a reception on Wednesday, January 10, at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre to celebrate the second anniversary of the creation of Acer Group by the merger of Freeman Fox and John Taylor.

In a welcoming address, Mr Roberts highlighted a very successful year for the Group and formally announced that an agreement in principle had been reached to take the firm of consulting engineers to join the Group. Sir Bruce White, Wolfe Barry & Partners, Peter Hayes, Watkins & Partners, and Roughton & Fenlon, among those present were.

The Egyptian Ambassador His Excellency Mohammed Shaker, the Sultan of Brunei, the Nurul Nuri, the Malaysian High Commissioner, His Excellency Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Lord Denham, Lord Howick, Sir David Steel, Dr. John Gutfreund, Sir Francis Graham-Smith, Sir John Gutfreund, Sir John Hume, Mr Michael Heseltine, Mr Peter Heseltine, MP, and representatives of international bodies and companies.

Luncheon

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host yesterday at a luncheon held at 10 Downing Street in honour of Mr Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan. The other guests were:

Mr Taro Nakayama, Mr Tatsuo Fujimura, the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Hugh Owen, the Hon Douglas Hurd, MP, Mr. John Whithead and Mr Charles Powell.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, will attend a performance of *Messiah* at the Albert Hall at 7.30 tomorrow.

Royal engagement

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Mr. J. T. F. Collins and Miss L. L. Heller
The forthcoming marriage is announced between Charles Abraham Grierson, son only of late Mr Norman Collins and of Mrs Jill Collins, of Woolstock, Gloucestershire, and Deborah, Lucy Lauris, eldest daughter of Mrs Caroline Garnham, of London, and the late Mr Lucas Heller.

Mr. J. C. W. Anthony and Miss C. J. Esther
The engagement is announced between Ivor, son of the late Major Philip Anthony and of Mrs Susan Knipeberg, of Bedford, Northumberland, and Caroline, daughter of Mr Michael Esther and Mrs Julia Esther, of Berwick upon Tweed.

Mr. J. B. Baish and Miss J. M. Tate
The engagement is announced between John Baish, only son of Mr and Mrs Brian Baish, of Kingswood, Bristol, and Jennifer Mary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs David Tate, of Piran.

Mr. J. T. P. Boorman and Miss D. M. Edinger
The engagement is announced between Jason, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T. A. Boorman, of London, and Deborah, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs L.D. Edinger, of Harrogate.

Mr. I. A. Cadzow and Miss J. M. Collins
The engagement is announced between Ian Alastair, son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Cadzow, of Berwick upon Tweed, and Jessica May, elder daughter of James W.H. Collins, of Edinburgh, and Mrs Helen Collins, of London.

Mr. W. R. G. Macpherson and Miss S. J. Palmer
The engagement is announced between William Robert George, younger son of Mrs B.H.P. Whitmore, of Guildford, Surrey, and Sarah Jacqueline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs K.E. Palmer, of Beckenham, Kent.

Mr. J. N. Maitland and Miss J. A. Tonkin
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr Neil Maitland, and the late Mrs Gillian Maitland, of Duddeswell, East Sussex, and Julie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Tonkinson, of Langham, Essex.

Mr. J. D. McLaughlin and Miss F. J. Clark
The engagement is announced between John Desmond, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. McLaughlin, of Brackenhurst, Sandiway, Cheshire, and Jane, younger daughter of Mrs Anne Clark and the late Mr. S. Clark, of Falmouth, Cornwall.

Mr. R. J. Lewis and Miss J. M. Marsden
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Major and Mrs Jack Lewis, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Marsden, of Sandhurst, Berkshire.

Mr. G. J. A. Walters and Miss A. P. Schubel
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SATELLITE

SKY ONE

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SATURDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

Heat on the Hong Kong beat

TELEVISION CHOICE

Peter Waymark

Like ITV's previous Saturday night crime offering, *Saracen*, *Yellowthread Street* (9.30pm) seems to have been designed to appeal to the audience's sense of the familiar. Seasoned television watchers will quickly recognize elements from other series, from *The Sweeney* (cops on the ground in conflict with their desk-bound boss) to *Dempsey and Makepeace* (male and female cop in tandem), while the macho ethos of meeting violence with more violence is borrowed not only from these but a raft of American shows. Tonight's episode even makes use of those trusted old stand-bys, the car chase and the climactic



Two of the detectives: Mark McGann and Catherine Neilson (ITV, 9.30pm)

shoot-out. *Yellowthread Street*'s chief claim to novelty is its Hong Kong setting. Based on the books of a former Hong Kong journalist, William Marshall, the series was made entirely on location and features a task force of six detectives (British, Australian and Chinese), led by a chief inspector. There is obvious potential here for getting under the local skin and this may yet happen, particularly when the Chinese members of the force are given their head in future episodes. Meanwhile, tonight's offering is a disappointingly conventional, and perfunctorily plotted, tale of drug smuggling and extortion in which the fearless Brits are pitted against a cliché oriental villain with a shaven head and a nasty snarl. *Yellowthread Street* was made by Yorkshire Television, whose director of programmes, John Fairley, describes it as "the thinking man's cop show". On this evidence it seems unlikely that the thinking will need to be profound.

Channel 4 launches its ambitious *Soviet Spring* season of more than 50 documentaries and feature films about the Soviet Union with Tony Palmer's *Testimony* (9.00pm), a study of Dmitri Shostakovich. Though the film contains ample examples of Shostakovich's music, its main focus is on the composer's troubled relationship with the Stalin regime. David Rudkin's screenplay, which draws on Shostakovich's controversial memoirs, examines the plight of an artist in a totalitarian society and looks at the extent to which Shostakovich had to betray himself and his friends in order to survive. Ben Kingsley, an actor with that rare gift of immersing himself so far in a part as to become unrecognizable, plays Shostakovich, with Terence Rigby as Stalin.

BBC 1

7.30 Saturday Starts Here! presented by Wayne Jackson and Ian Trebilcot. Begins with *Playdays* (7.30 *Law and Order*, *Cartoon* (8.00 *Merry Tales*, *Roy Aops's Gert and Lil* (8.00 *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse*, 8.20 *Cluckie Vision*). There is chaos when the Chuckle Brothers – Paul and Barry – help out at a supermarket. 8.35 *Thundercat* in *The Time Capsule* (7)

9.00 *Going Live!* with Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene. They are joined by sports presenter Tricia D'Arby and *Descon Blue*. There is also a discussion on football. 11.30 *cards* and Philip Hodson with his teenage problems advice 12.12 *Weather*

12.15 *Grandstand* introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): *Sliding from Germany*, Men's downhill championship; 12.40 and 1.10 *Boxing* from *Derbyshire Sports Centre*, Leeds featuring former Eric and amateur international boxer Wilson; 12.50 *News* 12.55, 1.00 and 2.00 *Racing* from Ascot and *Leopardstown*; The 1.00, 1.35 and 2.05 races from Ascot and the 2.20 (Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle) from *Leopardstown*; 1.40 and 2.40 *Ice Hockey* from *Kirkaldy*; *File Flyers* v *Cardiff Devils*; 2.45 and 3.00 *Rugby League* from Huddersfield; the *Heineken Trophy* Final between Wales and Ireland; 4.40 *Football half-time*; 4.40 *Final Results* with Elton Welby

5.00 *News* with Chris Lowe. *Weather*

5.15 *Regional news and sport*

5.30 *The Flying Doctors*. *No Quarter Asked*. After five years of travelling the world Jessie Logan, suffering from multiple sclerosis, returns home to Cooper Cross, to find that George Baxter has taken over part of her land. Despite the strain of her illness she begins a bitter struggle to get it back. With Catherine Wilkin and Liz Burtt. (Ceefax)

6.05 *Jim'll Fix It*. Jimmy Savile fixes it for more children – and sometimes adults – to have their dreams come true. (Ceefax)

6.40 *Big Fat Quiz*. Bob Monkhouse hosts another round of the big board bingo quiz game. (Ceefax)

7.15 *The Paul Daniels Magic Show*. Paul is joined by special guests the Bubble Man from Switzerland, Mario Cavalli, and the Hoof Hoop Queen from Las Vegas, Diane Batchelor, for baffling and bizarre feats that involve a touch of magic. (Ceefax)

8.00 *Waterfront Beat*. The special Merseyside squad is called in when an armed gang takes over a dockland warehouse, following the successful attack of a criminal gang and a companion biologically cultured 'him'. With John Ashton, Brian McCurdie, Philip Middlemiss and Denis Lill. (Ceefax)

8.50 *News* with Martyn Lewis. *Sport* and *weather*

9.10 *Midnight Caller*. KCJW's ex-cop turned late-night radio talk-show host Cliff Killian finds he is labelled a murderer and threatened with trouble. It's because he allows an old friend to go on the air and talk about his agonizing decision to have the life-support machine keeping his comatose young son alive turned off. Stars Gary Cole, Bruce Weitz and Peter Jurasik. (Ceefax)

10.00 *Dave Allen*. The old pros are in place, with the return of Dave Allen and his very blunt – and sometimes blue – observations of everyday life and people's habits. (10.30) *Film: The Beastmaster* (1982), starring Marc Singer, Rip Torn and Tanya Roberts. Magical fantasy set in prehistoric times about a baby prince who is kidnapped by a witch, but rescued by peasants who bring him up and teach him to mental strength to communicate with animals. When their village is destroyed, he sets out to revenge the witchcraft of the evil high priest behind it all. Directed by Don Coscarelli. (Ceefax)

12.20am *Carly Simon: Coming Around Again*. Award-winning American singer-songwriter Carly Simon in a rare concert appearance, performing some of her recent songs and old hits (7)

1.20 *Weather*

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Budget team in weekend tactics talks

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, gathers his Treasury team to Chevening today to draw up his strategy for what is predicted to be an austere, anti-inflationary Budget while impressing his own individual stamp on the Government's economic policy.

As the pound weathered another onslaught yesterday, Treasury ministers, advisers and top officials set off for a weekend of talks to lay the foundations for Mr Major's first Budget speech in March.

The Chancellor will be looking to enhance his own reputation and the Government's prospects of winning a fourth general election. But the weekend's retreat in Kent will inevitably be overshadowed by the threat of further double-figure pay deals after Ford's 10.2 per cent offer to its manual workers.

This week's statements by Mrs Thatcher, Mr Major and Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, that they intend to stand firm against inflationary pay deals indicate that the Budget will be equally single-minded in making inflation the prime target.

Closeted with Mr Major are expected to be Mr Norman

Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Mr Peter Lilley, Financial Secretary; Lord Caithness, Paymaster-General; Mr Richard Ryder, Economic Secretary; Sir Peter Middleton, the Treasury's permanent secretary; and Sir Terence Burns, chief economic adviser.

Chevening, the official residence of the Foreign Secretary is traditionally lent to the Chancellor for the pre-Budget gathering.

After the weekend's discussions, the Treasury team is effectively silenced until the Budget statement. However, Treasury watchers will scan Mr Major's speech in the Commons debate on the autumn statement in 10 days' time for further Budget clues.

Mr Major will be looking to reveal his own personal philosophy after nearly three months as Chancellor, emerging from the shadow of his predecessor, Mr Nigel Lawson. Early indications suggest that he is not likely to follow Mr Lawson by opting for across-the-board tax cuts, which tend to favour high-earners. Instead he may prefer to help low-income groups, such as low-wage earners and pensioners.

Satellite capture saves experiments

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

More than 12 million of the world's most-travelled tomato seeds should soon be on their way to the school laboratories of America following yesterday's capture by the space shuttle Columbia of a broken scientific satellite.

Dr Bonnie Dunbar, a Mission specialist, standing in the shuttle cockpit and peering at a television monitor, guided a 50ft robot arm to the Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF) and grabbed the 11-tonne satellite by a short grapple post on its side.

"Houston, we have LDEF," Mr Dan Brandenstein, the flight commander, said.

The crew was to photograph

Independence poses greater prob-

lems in Estonia and Latvia, where native Balts make up only 65 per cent and 54 per cent respectively of the population. Large Russian minorities, concentrated in the towns and in industry, fear discrimination.

The Transcaucasus, a mountainous region comprising the largely Christian republics of Georgia and Armenia and the Muslim Azerbaijan, is also likely to see calls for independence, although there is the

The secession threat to the Soviet Union: How ready are the 15 Soviet republics to break away following President Gorbachov's promise of legislation to allow their constitutional right

By Daniel Treisman

A law enabling secession from the Soviet Union — if it emerges from discussion in the Supreme Soviet in Moscow — will find a range of republics with national movements in different stages of development.

Nationalist movements are most mature and organized in the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia, all of which can be expected to press for eventual independence. Popular Fronts, formed in the autumn of 1988, have got candidates elected in local elections last December.

Latvia's Supreme Soviet yesterday opened the way for a multi-party system, amending the republic's constitution to eliminate the Communist Party's guarantee on political power. Estonia did the same early last month.

The communist parties in the two republics are waiting to see the results of the Lithuanian party's split with Moscow, before themselves taking such a move.

Independence poses greater prob-

lems to the Soviet Union: How ready are the 15 Soviet republics to break away following President Gorbachov's promise of legislation to allow their constitutional right

and in November nationalists disrupted the Revolution Day parade, causing communist leaders to flee.

With the fall of Ceausescu, some have called for reunification with Romania. This would not please the Russian eighth of the population.

In the Ukraine and Belarus, nationalist movements have developed more slowly and focus on demands for cultural and linguistic autonomy, as well as concerns about pollution. In Belarus, fears about the after-effects of Chernobyl, which were not fully and immediately publicized, have mobilized activists.

On Thursday, the Armenian legislature amended the republic's constitution to give itself an effective veto over national laws it sees as conflicting with Armenia's interests. Azerbaijan, through which vital train lines to Armenia and Georgia pass, has also seen an increase in national fervour associated with the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. Islamic activists have called for the republic to be reunited with Iran, though this demand might diminish if the border were opened.

In Moldavia, most of which was incorporated into the Soviet Union from Romania in 1940, a nationalist movement founded seven months ago has rebelled against the imposition of the Cyrillic script which replaced the Latin alphabet. Language riots and anti-Soviet protests broke out in August and September,

Parts of the Ukraine were

Poland before 1939, and Ukrainians may hope to bolster cultural ties with their neighbours to the West. The Solidarity historians and now member of parliament, Mr. Adam Michnik, addressed the founding congress of the Ukraine's popular front, *Rukh*, in September 1989.

In the largely Sunni Muslim

republics of Central Asia, calls for national independence are much rarer, though nationalist movements

are likely to gain ground.

SOVIET LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 1990

Local government	Republic's Supreme Soviet
Russian Republic	March 4
Ukraine	March 4
Belarusia	March 4
Uzbekistan	February 18
Kazakhstan	(Held in December 1989)
Georgia	June 17
Azerbaijan	Not fixed
Armenia	Not fixed
Moldavia	February 25
Kirgizia	February 25
Tajikistan	(Held in December 1989)
Turkmenistan	January 7
Lithuania	(Held in December 1989)
Estonia	March 18
Latvia	March 18
	February 24

has paralleled the development of the dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, which since it erupted in February 1988 has claimed over 120 lives. The Armenian Popular Front has demonstrated for autonomy.

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are likely to gain ground.

WEATHER

London, south-east England, East Anglia and the

Channel Islands will start mostly cloudy with some rain and drizzle. It will turn drier everywhere and most places will brighten up. In the rest of England and Wales there will be a frosty start followed by a lot of sunshine. Scotland and Northern Ireland will start mostly dry but rain and winds will spread from the north-west. Outlook: Still changeable.

ABROAD

MONDAY: (Infrared: d=dark, t=day, s=sun; cloud: cloud, snow: snow, r=rain, c=cloud, rain: rain)

Scorpio 24/25, Sagittarius 25/26, Capricorn 26/27, Aquarius 27/28, Pisces 28/29, Aries 29/30, Taurus 30/31, Gemini 31/1, Cancer 1/2, Leo 2/3, Virgo 3/4, Libra 4/5, Scorpio 5/6, Sagittarius 6/7, Capricorn 7/8, Aquarius 8/9, Pisces 9/10, Aries 10/11, Taurus 11/12, Gemini 12/13, Cancer 13/14, Leo 14/15, Virgo 15/16, Scorpio 16/17, Sagittarius 17/18, Capricorn 18/19, Pisces 19/20, Aries 20/21, Taurus 21/22, Gemini 22/23, Cancer 23/24, Leo 24/25, Virgo 25/26, Scorpio 26/27, Sagittarius 27/28, Capricorn 28/29, Pisces 29/30, Aries 30/31, Taurus 31/1, Gemini 1/2, Cancer 2/3, Leo 3/4, Virgo 4/5, Scorpio 5/6, Sagittarius 6/7, Capricorn 7/8, Pisces 8/9, Aries 9/10, Taurus 10/11, Gemini 11/12, Cancer 12/13, Leo 13/14, Virgo 14/15, Scorpio 15/16, Sagittarius 16/17, Capricorn 17/18, Pisces 18/19, Aries 19/20, Taurus 20/21, Gemini 21/22, Cancer 22/23, Leo 23/24, Virgo 24/25, Scorpio 25/26, Sagittarius 26/27, Capricorn 27/28, Pisces 28/29, Aries 29/30, Taurus 30/31, Gemini 1/2, Cancer 2/3, Leo 3/4, 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At first sight it's changed not a jot. But just wait until you put your foot down.

For a start, there's a new 3.9 litre engine which can accelerate from 0-60 in under 10 seconds.*

And then can reach a top speed of 111 mph* on the motorway. (Sorry, autobahn.)

To stop it, our engineers have developed the most advanced braking system in the world.

Their electronic 4-channel design prevents wheel-

lock in any conditions and on any combination of surfaces.

A standard fixture on the Vogue SE, it's an optional (but very desirable) extra throughout the rest of the range.

This includes the Turbo Diesel version which now has a 2.5 litre engine for better performance and greater pulling power.

Environmentally, the new Range Rover is also friendlier. We've made the exhaust quieter and more efficient.

The brake pads are asbestos-free, and there's the

choice of a 3-way catalytic converter. While naturally, it's

able to run on unleaded fuel.

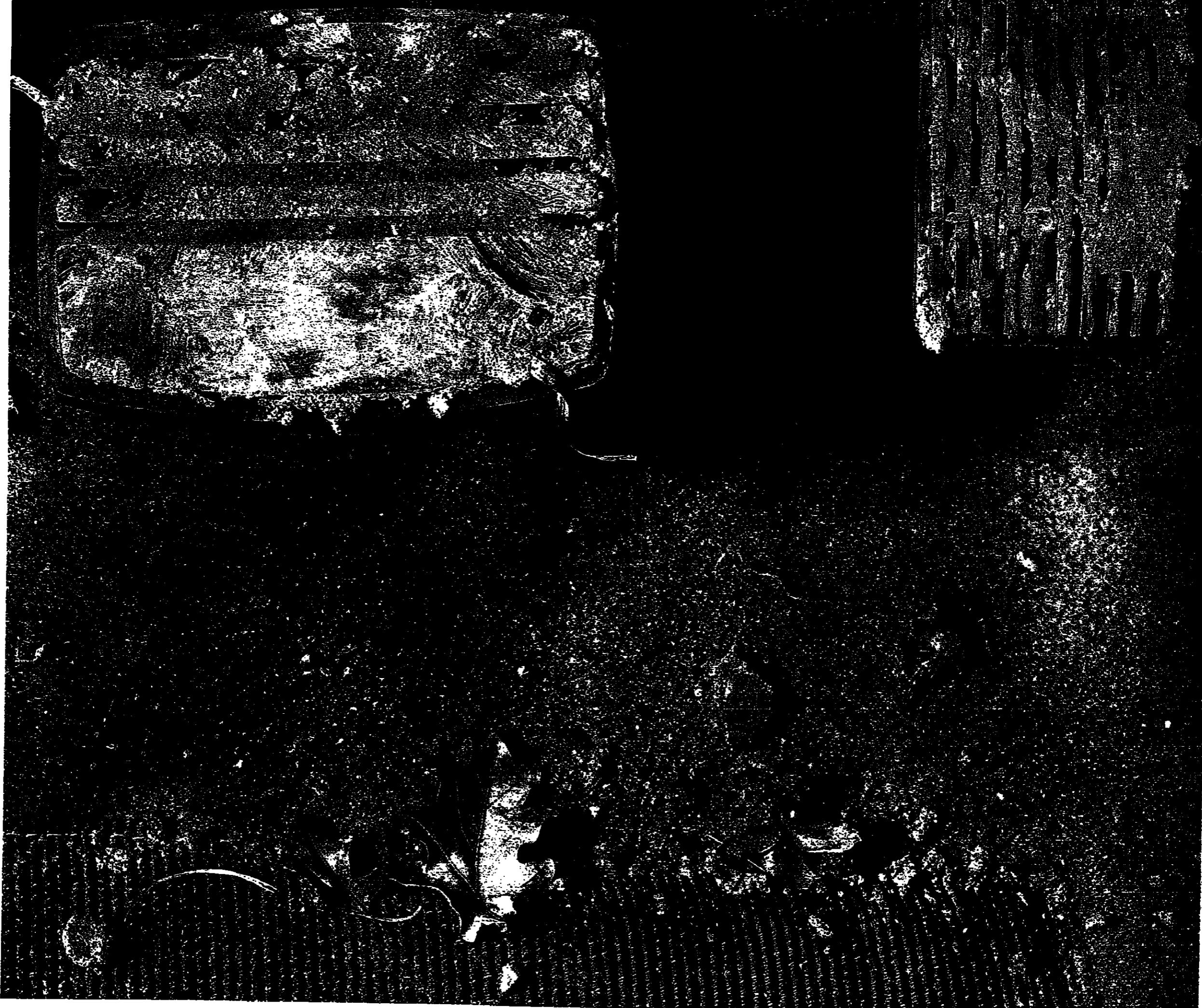
Inside, the Vogue SE exudes air-conditioned luxury.

The fascia's covered with burr walnut; the seats, which adjust eight different ways, in Connolly leather. But to really appreciate the Range Rover you have to drive one yourself.

Even after 20 years, it's still quite unlike any other vehicle on the road. Or off it. **THE BEST 4x4xFAR.**

RANGE ROVER.
LAND-ROVER

AFTER 20 YEARS, TWO RADICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RANGE ROVER.



RANGE ROVER PRICES START AT £23,794 AND GO UP TO £31,549 FOR THE VOUGE SE. PRICES, CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VAT, BUT NOT DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES. A 3-WAY CATALYTIC CONVERTER IS AVAILABLE AS AN OPTION ON ALL PETROL MODELS. ALL PETROL MODELS CAN RUN ON UNLEADED FUEL WITH NO MODIFICATION REQUIRED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER. *MANUFACTURER'S DATA

هذا من الأصل

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Crown sells Invicta stake to Southern

Crown Communications has put its money on Southern Radio in preference to Invicta Sound after the breakdown of "long, drawn-out" merger talks between the two radio stations. It sold its 15.3 per cent stake in Invicta to Southern for about £2.4 million cash after the talks ground to a halt.

Crown, which has radio, television and corporate communications interests, owns nearly 30 per cent of Southern. It will make about £1 million on the disposal.

LCC ahead at £58,000

The London Cremation Company lifted pre-tax profits from £24,000 to £58,000 in the six months to end-September, up from £37,000 to £413,000. There is no interim dividend. The company said the trading results were satisfactory, and it expects this trend to continue for the rest of the year.

Builder's profit slides

Shares in Abbey, the Irish housebuilder which operates in the South of England, remained unchanged at 125p, despite pre-tax profits down from £29.16 million to £24.27,000 (£246,666) at the interim stage to October. No dividend will be paid on earnings per share of 10.72p (£15.4p).

Laurence Prust, Abbey's broker, has cut its forecast for year-end profits by £1 million to £24 million compared with the £18.7 million earned last year.

Healthcall wins Air Call

The offer for Air Call, the paging and mobile radio company, by Healthcall Group, a management buy-out team, has gone unconditional after acceptances were received for 3.47 million shares, representing 93.18 per cent of the total. The offer was worth £41.5 million.

Rentokil in £3m cash buy

Rentokil Group, the environmental and property-care company, has acquired Thermochem, a Salisbury, Wiltshire, supplier of water treatment chemicals and related services, from the Endless Holdings Group for £3.02 million cash. Rentokil's shares climbed 4p to 406p on the news.

Britain leads the way with US investments

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The British invested more than three times as much in the United States as any other country during the first nine months of 1989, the Washington-based Association for International Investment reported yesterday.

New British investment during that period was an estimated \$19.7 billion (£11.8 billion), 24 per cent more than during the same period in 1988. The total book value of British investment in the US is now calculated at \$121.6 billion – 32.6 per cent of all foreign investment.

Leading the way was Beecham with its \$5.5 billion purchase of Smith Kline. The three other biggest investments were the completion of

GrandMet's \$6 billion purchase of Pillsbury, Polly Peck's purchase of California's Del Monte food company and British Telecom's substantial investment in McCaw Communications, a cellular telephone company. Around 60 per cent of British investments were in manufacturing.

The scale of British investment in the US has so far attracted little comment, but the American media has given extensive coverage to Japanese investment, particularly Sony's \$3.4 billion purchase of Hollywood's Columbia Pictures last autumn and the Mitsubishi Estate Company's \$846 million purchase of a 51 per cent stake in New York's

Rockefeller Centre. However, the All figures show that while Japan is the second largest foreign investor in the US, its investment during the first nine months of 1989 was just \$5.4 billion, less than the previous year, while its total investment had grown only to \$58.76 billion. Those figures did not include the Sony or Rockefeller purchases.

"We have already begun to see a flurry of activity in Congress in the last year," he said. "These continued increases will certainly trigger a number of Congressional hearings in the near future and perhaps prompt the introduction of some protectionist bills."

The three next biggest investors in the US are the Dutch, with a total book value of \$53.7 billion, the Canadians with \$28.4 billion, and the West Germans with \$25 billion.

However, the French more than tripled their investment during 1989 to \$5.3 billion for a total of \$16.7 billion. Mr

Brad Larschan, AII's corporate secretary, said he believed foreign investment would continue to grow rapidly during 1990 but warned that this would arouse latent American protectionism.

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Japan 'set to take Britain's IMF slot'

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Japan will probably achieve its goal of ousting Britain from the number two spot in the International Monetary Fund next week, Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Finance Minister, said yesterday.

The promotion would end Tokyo's long struggle for a voice in the IMF that matches its financial muscle.

Mr Hashimoto said approval for the planned expansion

of the fund's resources, the trigger for the chairswapping, will probably come next week.

He said there seemed to be little objection among major industrialized nations to Japan's proposal to boost its contribution to the fund to make it the second largest contributor after the US.

Despite its economic power, Japan ranks only fifth.

Plateau Mining placing next week

By Sam Parkhouse

The Robertson Group's flotation of its Plateau Mining subsidiary will take place next week by a placing on the main market under the guidance of James Capel, the broker. Plateau, which has mining interests in Zimbabwe, Ecuador and Cyprus, is expected to have a capitalization of about £18 million.

Robertson shareholders will be entitled to Plateau shares which will be listed on Thursday, January 18. Dealings are due to begin the following week. The flotation is likely to bring Robertson £5 million cash to be concentrated on its natural resources consultancy businesses.

Mr John Clarke, finance director, says Robertson plans to sell its remaining mining interests this year – which could raise £10 million.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

The Royal Bank of Scotland

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Sir Michael Herries, Chairman speaking at the AGM of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group in Edinburgh on Thursday 11 January 1990.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER, 1989

- Record operating profits of £336.5 million.
- 75% provision against LDC exposure.
- Annual dividend raised by 20%.
- Earnings per share before exceptional item increased by 10% to 29.4p per share.
- Shareholders' funds increased to £1,410.7 million.
- 27% balance sheet growth to £27.4 billion.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For a copy of the annual report and accounts, please

complete this form and send it to the Secretary,

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc,

42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 100%	Simple interest	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	5.00	5.10	4.00	non/none	7 day
Typical					
Fixed Term Deposits					
1 month	11.00	11.00	8.00	25,000-50,000	1 mth
3 months	10.85	10.85	8.25	25,000-50,000	1 mth
6 months	10.83	10.83	8.50	25,000-50,000	1 mth
1 year	11.07	11.07	8.85	25,000-50,000	1 mth
Lloyds	10.87	10.87	8.50	25,000-50,000	1 mth
Midland	10.51	10.51	8.49	10,000-20,000	6 mth
NatWest	10.61	10.61	8.50	10,000-20,000	6 mth
West	10.53	10.53	8.60	10,000-20,000	6 mth
	10.75	10.75	8.60	10,000-20,000	6 mth
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of England	10.84	11.18	8.94	2,500	none 031-442-7777
Barclays	9.50	9.84	7.57	1,500	none 034-252-9891
Chase	7.10	7.30	5.84	No min	none 01-626-6245
Co-operative	9.25	9.25	7.40	1,000	none 031-222-2076
First Direct	7.00	7.20	5.76	500	none 01-322-3336
Leeds HCA	9.50	9.50	8.67	2,000	none
Midland	9.00	9.31	7.45	500	none 01-574-3374
NatWest	9.75	10.11	8.09	2,500	none 031-559-8555
West	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000	none 01-401-6000

	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 mth	none
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Country Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 mth	none
Best buy – largest excess					
North of Eng.	6.00	6.00	5.82	250 min	none
West of Eng.	6.25	6.25	7.40	500 min	none
East of Eng.	6.00	6.00	6.32	10,000 min	none
Chel & Gloucester	10.00	10.00	8.00	10,000 min	none
Teachers	11.00	11.00	8.80	20,000 min	none
CASH/CHECK ACCOUNTS					
Midland	2.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	none
Card Case	2.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	none
Amersham & Luton	6.90	6.90	5.52	500 min	with larger balances
Wolverhampton	11.04	11.04	8.83	5,000 min	500 min
Leeds	11.20	11.20	8.55	1,000 min	500 min
London	10.25	10.25	8.40	250 min	500 min
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day
Investment A/c*	11.75	8.85	7.85	20,000-100,000	3 min
Capital A/c*	12.50	9.50	7.50	25-100,000	3 min
365 Index Cont'd	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-1,000	5 day
Yearly Plan	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-200,000	14 day
Capital Fund	6.01	5.01	5.01	100-1,000	5 yrs
Capital Bond	9.00	9.00	7.25	100-1,000	5 yrs
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Best Direct Plan	11.75	11.75	9.88		

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Jon Ashworth

Finance award winner to edit Family Money

An award-winning editor takes over the Family Money pages next week — Lindsay Cook, former personal finance editor of *The Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*.

Ms Cook won the award of personal finance newspaper of the year for two of the past three years. She was also named personal finance writer of the year in 1987.

She was born in Grimsby, South Humberside and is the author of the popular guide to personal finance, *The Money Diet*, a three-month course in organizing everyday and household spendings.

Married with a one-year-old son, Ms Cook lives in Islington, London.

At the helm: Lindsay Cook

Computer viral attack scrambles Barclaycard

The exact cost of Christmas will be higher than usual for thousands of Barclaycard users. Statements arriving now may show a number of purchases which are listed as being made in the UK instead of the usual details about the retailers.

These incomplete statements are the result of a computer fault on December 15 which affected purchases made up to 10 days earlier. Shoppers, who cannot account for all the charges logged on their statements, are asked by Barclaycard to write in to its head office requesting that the transactions concerned be tracked back to the individual retailers.

A spokeswoman for Barclaycard, which has nine million credit card holders, said: "There was a bug in the system on December 15 which meant that many thousands of transactions were processed without the narrative details. It is the first time it has happened in 25 years.

"Most people affected will be able to check the statements against their Barclaycard vouchers. If they

do not recognize any items, they should write in."

Tracing the transactions could take some time and it is therefore better if cardholders do not telephone Barclaycard, she continued. She added that about one million transactions went through the system on December 15 and not all of them were affected: "A sizeable number are listed as purchase in UK."

Because of delays in vouchers reaching Barclaycard's Northampton centre during the pre-Christmas rush, it will be more difficult than usual to identify some of the transactions. Two separate purchases made in Harrods in London on Tuesday December 5 were among the mystery items processed on Friday December 15 on one statement.

Apart from the computer error credit card companies may list transactions in this coded way if a card is reported missing. In some cases, where vouchers are processed by banks other than the card issuer, transactions can also be billed as "purchase in the UK".

At the moment, only

The depressed housing market arising from high mortgage rates has led two lenders to launch schemes this week fixing interest rates at under 13 per cent. A further package will be offered next week and others are in the pipeline.

A mortgage fixed at 11.95 per cent for the full 25-year term is to be launched on Monday by an American lender, which is setting up in the UK for the first time.

Bear Stearns Home Loans will have no redemption penalties for borrowers who change lender when interest rates fall but there is an "option" fee of 3 per cent of the loan charged at the outset.

Early redemption penalties

have been the main drawback of fixed-rate schemes. Lenders charge up to two years' interest to borrowers who change lender before the fixed-price loan term has expired. This means that when interest rates fall, home buyers can find themselves locked-in.

Unlike other banks, Bear Stearns is keen to cover the whole mortgage market and not just larger loans. The minimum is only £16,000, and up to £500,000 may be borrowed. A minimum down-

payment of 10 per cent is required. The "option" would add £900 to the cost of a £30,000 mortgage and could be added to the loan or paid as a one-off fee. Miss Marcia Myerberg, who helped set up The Mortgage Corporation in 1986, is managing director of the new company. She said £185 million had been set aside for the fixed-rate plan on offer until the end of January.

"We wanted to launch something which would appear to all borrowers, rather than restricting it to the wealthy," said Miss Myerberg. "We intend to be a leader in the UK market, and that means introducing innovation as well as fresh capital."

Potential customers have to apply for a mortgage through a panel of introducers — The LAS Group, Norwich Union, Royal Life, Sun Alliance and John Charcol, the specialist mortgage broker. The loan can be interest-only or linked to a pension or endowment plan.

London-based First Mortgage Securities (FMS) this week launched a fixed-rate plan pegging the rate at 12.65 per cent for 10 years. The downside is a heavy penalty for early redemption — up to

two years' worth of interest. The idea of this plan is clearly to stay in for the whole term.

Mr Nicholas Deutsch, managing director of FMS, said the mortgage could be transferred to the next buyer of the property and would add to its value: "In the next few months we will see more emphasis being shifted towards the borrowers. Lenders will take their fee up-front, leaving the clients in control."

Borrowers can also choose

to transfer the loan to their next home, the transfer fee being £195.

The Mortgage Corporation has launched a Stabiliser plan with the rate fixed at 12.5 per cent for the whole term of the loan. Any interest deferred while real rates are higher will be repaid when the rate is lower than 12.5 per cent.

A safety valve has been built in to stop too much deferred interest from building up. If extra interest increases the

loan size by 10 per cent, the standard variable rate will be imposed. At this stage, however, a new Stabiliser plan could be started if there is enough equity.

Mr Colin Millar, the marketing director, said that over a long enough period, borrowers should end up with little or no deferred interest to pay: "Taking 12.5 per cent as the average long-term mortgage rate, there is no reason why the amount of deferred interest won't cancel itself out over time."

The new fixed-rate schemes have one thing in common — interest must stay above, or near, 12 per cent in the long term to make them worthwhile. But according to the Halifax Building Society, the average rate over the last 30 years has been a mere 9.8 per cent. Over 20 years it was 11.4 per cent and it is only in the last decade that 12.8 per cent became the norm.

During the 1960s, interest rates were only 6.75 per cent on average, and in the 1970s they worked out at 10.1 per cent. A low fixed-rate mortgage may seem like a good idea when true rates are high but less so 10 years from now, when rates have declined.

US lender: Marcia Myerberg of Bear Stearns Home Loans

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Eurotunnel investors' sweetener hopes

Investors in Eurotunnel are keeping their fingers crossed that there will be a sweetener to accompany the company's much heralded rights issue.

Shareholders will be asked some time this year to provide 25 per cent of the additional finance needed to meet cost over-runs. It looks as if a total £1.2 billion will be raised, with £300 million from shareholders.

Eurotunnel though, may allow itself some leeway against further costs by presenting shareholders with a bill for £350-400 million — equivalent to about £1 for each unit already held.

Shareholders must wait for details of the new share issue before deciding whether it is

worth taking up their rights. Attractions: Eurotunnel's running costs are projected at only 25 per cent of revenue once the tunnel is open and the company will be operating a monopoly.

Eurotunnel may need to offer extra travel perks to tempt investors to put up more cash. However, if sufficient institutions are prepared to underwrite the new issue, despite the uncertainties created by this week's wrangle with the banks, then Eurotunnel will not need any such marketing ploy.

Shareholders must wait for details of the new share issue before deciding whether it is

chairman, has admitted that the first dividend is unlikely to be paid in 1995 as intended.

Eurotunnel said this week that the 50km mark, one third of the total tunnelling needed, had been completed. The service tunnel, once six months behind schedule, is now less than two months adrift but is due for completion by November 1990. The French are ahead on their portion of the train tunnels while the British are behind. Construction of tunnels is scheduled for at least nine months before the June 1993 opening date.

Rodney Hobson

Separate taxation moves into first gear

Next week married couples should begin to find out how much better off they will be under independent taxation when it begins in April.

Millions of tax codes for the tax year beginning April 6 will start being despatched by the Inland Revenue on Tuesday. The codes, which tell people how much they can earn before paying tax, will give all married women their own personal tax allowance to be set against either wages or interest earned on savings.

An estimated eight out of 10 pensioner couples should be better off. Under independent taxation, any state pension paid in respect of a wife will be based on the husband's national insurance contributions.

Where the wife has less than £1,500 in other income there will be no tax to pay on the pension, which means if the husband pays tax at the basic rate his tax bill will be reduced by about £6 a week. Higher rate taxpayers will be £10 better off.

Elderly wives will also receive an age allowance for the first time, which they can use against any kind of income so allowing couples to each earn £11,400 before the age allowance is reduced.

Couples, who have elected for separate taxation of earnings under the current system and foregone the married man's tax allowance, will have under independent taxation a married couple's allowance allocated to the husband so making them about £12 a week better off.

Tax codes are being issued to people whose position will change significantly as a result of the new system, so the correct tax can be deducted from their pay or pension.

Independent taxation is intended to ensure that married couples are not worse off than unmarried couples living together. It also gives women privacy in their tax affairs for the first time.

Until April 5 interest on a married woman's savings are taxed at her husband's top tax rate. From April 6 hundreds of thousands of married women will become non-taxpayers.

Ed	Offr	Chrg	Yld
CARHARTT INSURANCE			
1st Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
2nd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
3rd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
4th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
5th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
6th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
7th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
8th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
9th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
10th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
11th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
12th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
13th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
14th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
15th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
16th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
17th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
18th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
19th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
20th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
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23rd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
24th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
25th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
26th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
27th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
28th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
29th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
30th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
31st Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
32nd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
33rd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
34th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
35th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
36th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
37th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
38th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
39th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
40th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
41st Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
42nd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
43rd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
44th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
45th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
46th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
47th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
48th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
49th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
50th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
51st Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
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53rd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
54th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
55th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
56th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
57th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
58th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
59th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
60th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
61st Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
62nd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
63rd Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
64th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
65th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
66th Chrtg	100.00	1.00	1.00
6			

FAMILY MONEY

Open-all-hours home banking set to expand



The 1990s could be the decade in which home banking in Britain finally finds its feet.

After several false starts, the idea of a bank without branches that can deliver services 24 hours a day, seems ready to take off.

The point was driven home late last year with the launch of First direct, the telephone banking subsidiary of the Midland Bank.

First direct customers pay in their money by post, direct credit or through the Midland Bank. They receive a cash card which can be used at any Midland or TSB cash machine. Mrs Jan Smith, the marketing director, said: "We are getting a steady stream of calls from six in the morning to one at night. By the end of 1990 we hope to have 100,000 customers and to be in profit by the end of 1991."

One person using the service at night is Mrs Jane Crockett of Chelmsford, who said: "I suppose it's really lazy banking. I do all the finances in our family and in the past it's been a bit of an effort to get into town, park the car and so on if I needed to go to the bank. Now I can do it all on the phone."

While First direct may still be finding its way, TSB's Speedline which uses a computer that recognizes voices, has been up and running for two years. So far 220,000 people have signed up.

They include Mr Geoff Dave, a council officer in Sunderland, who said: "The great advantages are that you can keep a tab on your account at all times and bank without queuing. It doesn't worry me that I'm talking to a computer and not a person."

As many as five million of the UK's 30 million present bank customers may be ready

to take the plunge into home banking, according to research by Mori.

In a recent report on electronic banking, Mori found most consumers were against the idea of banking from home. Only 16 per cent said they were in favour, while 23 per cent said they were signed to the fact that it would grow in popularity. Some 54 per cent were actively opposed to the idea.

The high street banks could take some encouragement from the fact that it is the younger generation which appears to be most in favour of the new system.

They can also take heart from the lesson of automatic cash dispensers. Ten years ago, these holes in the wall were treated with utmost suspicion and distaste. Now, 70 per cent of all cash is withdrawn from them.

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resource to improve the basic pension and the inability of many to realize the equity in their homes, will all make life increasingly hard for Britain's pensioners.

These are the sorry conclusions of a new report by Professor Nick Bosanquet of the University of London and Dr Carol Propper of the University of Bristol.

"Although the well-off 20 per cent will increase in numbers and continue to enjoy life, those who rely just on the basic state pension will continue to have a hard time," says the report. "The new factor is the middle group with modest occupational pensions who will come under financial pressure."

The report classifies the top 20 per cent of pensioners as having a joint income of more than £200 a week, the middle band of 40 per cent with £150 a week and the lowest group with £90 a week.

It points out that the genera-

tion born in 1925 – those just coming up for retirement – may have benefitted from high employment and increased coverage of occupational pensions but have suffered a reversal since the early 1970s.

Far from showing increased wealth as families lose dependent children, pay off mortgages and inherit grandparents' estates, most incomes have peaked by the age of 49, and decline from then on.

Pensioners over 75 may have only a third of their peak income on which to live. People who have recently retired have more investments and better pensions than their immediate seniors but the differences are fairly small. In general, the over-75-year-olds in the 1990s will not be markedly better off than those of same age in the 1980s.

While more than 70 per cent of newly retiring pensioners have occupational pensions, nearly a third of the pension's

total value is lost because this income removes entitlement to the state's means-tested benefits. Over half of occupational pensioners experienced this "pension trap" which for more than a quarter means having 70 per cent of the value of their pension swallowed up.

Many have pointed to the increased vigour of the retired and to increased labour shortages as indicating more employment prospects for pensioners who want to work. However official statistics do not bear this out. They show that as unemployment has fallen in all age groups, it has risen for men between the ages of 55 and 65 years old.

The Bosanquet/Propper report concludes that unless economic growth over the next decade is very rapid and there is a political will to distribute a greater proportion of resources to the elderly, there seems no strong reason for the relative position of people on state pensions to improve.

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store. After the customer complained, Family Album agreed to have it record deleted in February 1989, the Data Protection Registrar's office found it was there in December 1988.

An administrative error was made by Family Album. Both Family and CCA Systems are part of Great Universal Stores organization. The entry had been removed from Family Album records not from CCA Systems file. The customer was been assured via the Data Protection Registrar's office that both now have now been deleted.

Brian Collett

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Source: Average for years to 31/12/89. Investment Trust after-allowance prices will not return interest. Building Society after-tax amount will not return interest.

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Please send details of the Murray Investment Trust Savings Scheme.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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UNIT TRUSTS

With over 1,200 unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose?

In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust. M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each:

• RECOVERY FUND for capital growth

• DIVIDEND FUND for increasing income

• SECOND GENERAL FUND for a balance between income and growth

It would be hard to find three funds with more convincing long term records. One of them is likely to be the right choice for you. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE

£1,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1984, compared with a similar investment in a building Society.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income from higher yielding shares.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE

£1,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1984, compared with a similar investment in a building Society.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 33-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies and recouped yield in line with the FT Actuaries All Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE

£1,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Second General on 5th June 1984, compared with a similar investment in a building Society.

FURTHER INFORMATION

On 29 December 1989 M&G charged £1,000 for a basic rate of £1,000. The Building Society charges are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics).

M&G Dividend Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Recovery Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Second General Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Dividend Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Recovery Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Second General Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Dividend Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Recovery Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Second General Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. The M&G Dividend Fund's 1989 income was £1,000. The Building Society's 1989 income was £1,000. 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17th Jan	JF Quality Coaching Fms	Series of hotel companies	£500,000 x 20
24th Jan	JF "Waterside Collection" and Special Opportunities	Series of £5m companies investing in residential property	£5m x 18
30th Jan	Edinburgh Tankers	A 4th Issue for this oil tanker company	£5m
2nd Feb	JF Premier Nursing Homes	Series of Nursing Home companies	£500,000 x 20

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FAMILY MONEY

Charles Kersley sounds a warning about overseas 'goldmines'

East European exodus threatens expat options

Recent political changes in Eastern Europe could have a far-reaching impact on job prospects for Britons seeking work abroad.

Limited scope for skilled people is already apparent and will be followed by higher-grade opportunities as hunger for technology transfer grows, say expatriate employment experts. In the short-term, the outlook may be bright as infrastructure expands to serve the forecast upsurge in consumer goods demand.

Within 10 years, however, the former communist nations will not only be competing successfully overseas but "will have ended Japan's domination of world markets," according to Mr Keith Edmunds, chairman of Fincfords, owners of the Expat's International service organization.

He believes the need for Western expertise will by then have dwindled, while nations of the countries concerned will flood into the expat labour market, prepared to work for less pay than British staff.

The current influx of skilled labour from East to West Germany provides a foretaste of the expected extra competitiveness for jobs. Many migrants will be candidates for the million or more jobs which the Single European Market is expected to create.

In the countdown to 1992, Britons will individually stand above-average chances in



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continental Europe providing they are experienced, degree-qualified, and equipped to "operational" level at least in a second language.

This means being fluent enough to carry out business - something which can usually be achieved with about 10 weeks' full-time tuition.

British engineers of all disciplines, sales and marketing managers, and information technology experts are highly regarded on the Continent, according to Mr Tony Smith, managing director of International Training & Recruitment Link. They are in demand in Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany.

An electrical engineer

being paid £20,000 annually here would receive up to £28,000 in Holland or West Germany. A middle-rank marketing executive on £18,000-£20,000 in Britain can earn £25,000-£32,000 a year on the Continent, while a general manager or managing director can gain a 20 per cent improvement on his British income in the £30,000-£50,000 bracket.

Computing and data-processing skills are effectively passported to opportunities world-wide, along with the medical, nursing, pharmacy and physiotherapy professions.

Such skills continue to open doors in the Middle and Far

East, regions traditionally seen as expat "goldmines" but now becoming less attractive or less easily accessible through the growing reliance on local staff "indigenization" relatively lower rewards, or restrictive employment policies.

Nexus, the recently launched overseas jobs magazine, quotes the instance of a quality assurance engineer earning £18,000 per annum in Saudi Arabia and now grossing £25,000 for a similar post in London. "Expats are looking at the home market again," declared Miss Sheila Hare, the editor.

Rising salaries and low living costs compared with

many other countries are two reasons for this turnaround. Britain comes 59th in the list of 70 countries in the purchasing league table for a "shopping basket" of essentials, according to a global survey by Employment Conditions Abroad.

Iran is the costliest country, followed by Japan, Finland, Zaire, Norway and China (the least expensive nation 10 years ago, but now 84 per cent dearer than Britain). Australia and the US are 25 and 23 per cent respectively more expensive than Britain. Argentina, South Africa and India are 19-24 per cent cheaper.

If Europe is flagged as the next expat Eldorado, this does not deny the continued availability of worthwhile postings in developing states such as Kenya - where oil extraction is starting - Libya and Brunei.

Many openings also exist in Hong Kong at least until the handover in 1997.

A worthwhile posting is one that provides high pay, low or no taxation, free or subsidized accommodation, all air fares and medical care, enabling the expat to bank up to 90 per cent of his or her earnings.

One-third of Expat's International's members each manage to save £15,000 a year, and 10 per cent hold cash assets totalling a minimum of £100,000.

Expat's International, 01-670 8304; **IT & RL**, 01-706 3646; **Nexus**, 01-761 2575.

Addressing the credit blacklist problem

So many people have been victims of the system that allows debts to be recorded against addresses and not names that the Data Protection Registrar is to order a stop to the practice.

Credit reference agencies often record clients' records of customers' debt and credit ratings under addresses.

The result is that a customer without a bad debt history could be refused credit by a store because of money owed by a previous occupant of his address.

The Data Protection Registrar has now accumulated enough cases to

take action. As he considers the practice to be unfair and as such a breach of the Data Protection Act, he intends to issue enforcement notices to the agencies to stop using this method of recording debt and credit details.

The agencies can contest the notices at a tribunal, which would make a binding decision - probably setting a precedent.

However, an agency that ignores the notice would be committing a criminal offence.

An investigator at the Data Protection Registrar's office says: "Often it is only when somebody gets a copy of his own file from the agency that he

realizes it does not refer to him." Many consumers do not question credit refusal but a copy of an agency's file usually costs only £1 and must be supplied on request.

• A customer who was told that debt recorded against him on an agency file would be removed found it was still listed nearly a year later.

A £16 debt was referred by the Family Album mail order company in 1984 to the CCN Systems agency.

The debt was actually cleared at about the time it was recorded but it was still on the file in late 1988, when it temporarily barred the customer from receiving instant credit at a large

store. After the customer complained, Family Album agreed to have the record deleted in February 1989, but the Data Protection Registrar's office found it was there in December 1989.

An administrative error was blamed by Family Album. Both Family Album and CCN Systems are part of the Great Universal Stores organization.

The entry had been removed from the Family Album record but not from the CCN Systems file. The customer has been assured via the Data Protection Registrar's office that both records have now been deleted.

Brian Collett

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Remember that the tax treatment of PEPs may be changed by future legislation.

To find out more, complete and return the coupon or call the Mercury PEP Department on 01-280 2888.

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£2,500 - £4,999	10.75%	14.33%

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F&C tops league of general trusts

Foreign & Colonial has come top of a league for general investment trusts.

It joins the ranks of the national as the one to be reviewed, published today, the largest trust by value, NatWest Woodmar.

It compares the "Big Ten" trusts, and gives Foreign & Colonial a standing ovation, the one to be reviewed.

"Foreign & Colonial is a company you buy because and in their continued success to spot market and currency trends."

While Alliance emerges as a "sound bet" for investors in Britain and the US, large diversified and successfully diversified.

Murphy Johnstone, meanwhile, has scored something of a coup. "How do you suggest UK, US and Euro while providing a 3 per cent return?" The answer is Murry International.

Although past performance is the usual benchmark in these matters, further, personal and management record is just as important, it is especially for the large trusts.

"We are trying to highlight that these trusts can be substantially," said Mr Brian County, County director.

"Ten years ago they all had similar holdings. Today, they are all trying to develop the character of their own."

"We are saying there is a difference between buying one trust and another," said Mr Brian County, "a trust investor's a person's factor can do whatever the ability of the management."

County recently predicted that investment trusts would be the best and most profitable in the 1990s.

"We are correct in the trust and biggest single mistake is to be a good, dependable balanced total return trust offering a diversified spread.

A typical general trust portfolio has 35 per cent in Britain, 25 per cent in North America, 15 per cent each in Japan and Australia, 4 per cent each in Europe and 4 per cent each in the rest of the world.

The principle of E & O cover is in the General Confession from the Book of Common Prayer: "We have left undone those things which we ought to have done. And we have done those things which we ought not to have done."

Jennie Hawthorne

Self-build mortgage launched

A mortgage for do-it-yourself house builders was launched this week by the Abbey National. The self-build loans are at the Abbey's standard mortgage rate - 14.5 per cent up to £60,000 and 13.9 per cent above this.

The loans are divided into two parts. Initially up to 75 per cent of the cost of the land will be advanced so long as it has a minimum of two years planning permission to run.

When planning permission is granted, builders usually have five years to undertake the work.

The second part of the loan will be released in four or five stages after the building work has been completed to agreed levels and certified by a surveyor or other qualified person approved by Abbey.

Self-builders will need to put up at least a quarter of the cost of their new home as the maximum loan is 75 per cent of the total cost of the land and construction or the full cost of the construction, whichever is the lower.

The Abbey estimates that 8,000 people will build their own homes this year.

National & Provincial Building Society also has a self-build mortgage with funds released in six stages.

Conal Gregory checks out what is on offer to protect holidaymakers' interests

Compulsory insurance clouds sunny prices of package deals

Anyone planning a summer holiday had better watch out. Those unbeatable holiday deals may not be quite what they seem, especially after all the hidden extras have surfaced.

The sting in the tail with most of the offers is the high price of the compulsory insurance. Depending upon the cost of the overall holiday and the number of people travelling on it, it may be better to arrange the insurance through a broker, bank or building society, or to take out a policy for more than one holiday in the year. There several deals on the market.

■ A T Mays will give a cash reduction of £50 per person on bookings that cost £1,000 or more per person. The discount falls to £15 on £700 or over plus a three-piece travel pack or four-piece luggage set. Even bookings worth £500-plus qualify for the travel pack or luggage. In addition, each person need only pay £25 deposit to secure the booking.

■ The Midland Bank travel arm, Thomas Cook, similarly insists that the cover provided by Eagle Star insurer, Home and Overseas, is taken if the holidaymaker is benefiting from one of their discounts. The cost is £19.45 for 14 to 17 days in Europe and £20.75 for 18 to 24 days. There is no discount for children over two years old.

Thomas Cook has four reductions on offer: £60 for Faraway holidays, £50 where the individual cost is £750 or more, £25 on £400 or more, and £15 where £250 each is spent, all discounts being quoted on a per person basis.

To make life easier for the traveller, no deposit is required until March 1.

The only upfront fee is the insurance premium which is £17.95 to cover 14 to 17 days and £21.60 for 18 to 24 days.

Children can be covered for children over two years old.

■ Bradford & Bingley Building Society operates a competitive rate through General Accident. Since most home insurance policies cover for items such as cameras and jewellery when they are taken on holiday, it is sensible not to insure the same items twice over. Bradford & Bingley quotes £11.11 on 10 to 17 days in Europe and £14 to £19 for 18 to 23 days if baggage cover is deleted. For 2-15 year olds, the premium rates are £5.56 and £7.10 respectively.

■ ABTA has its own policies underwritten by Municipal Insurance. Its Silver Travel costs £13.65 and £18.45 for 11 to 17 and 18 to 31 European days and Gold cover £16.60 and £22.10 for increased cover.

Check that policies are comprehensive. Many exclude the first £50 for claims and do not offer compensation for flight delays until 12 hours have been spent at an airport.

It may be better, however, to purchase holiday insurance elsewhere. In this event, check rates out before signing the booking form as most operators insist that equal or better benefits are in force with an insurer at the time the holiday booking is effected through an agent or operator direct.

■ Cornhill Insurance, for example, quotes just £16.80

for 9 to 17 days in Europe and £25.40 for 18 to 23 days with half rates for children two to 15 years old. They also have a

count for children over two years old.

■ There is also a cash discount with Co-op Travel. This is £10 on £100 holiday, £15 on £250 and £25 on £400 plus.

■ A two-tier discount is available through Hogg Robinson - £25 off per booking up to £398 and £50 over this sum on selected brochures. The range includes Intersun, Redwing, Falcon, Cosmos and Yachtours. Their compulsory insurance, through Sun Alliance, is £17.50 on 10 to 17 day trips and £20.35 on 18 to 23 days in Europe. Under-12 year olds pay £13.15 and £16 respectively.

■ Bishopsgate Insurance is compulsory with Lunn Poly, and costs £18.95 for 11 to 17 days and £22.95 on 18 to 24 days with no reductions for children over two years old.

For holidays after April 1 through to October 31, discounts start at £5 per person up to £99, rising to £75 off on £1,250.

■ Pickfords uses Commercial Union and charges £18 for 13

to 17 days in Europe and £21.60 for 18 to 24 nights with half-price for child premiums.

A low deposit of £25 and discounts of £20 to £100 on holidays of £900 plus are offered.

■ Some operators are quoting deals whether the holidaymaker books direct or via an agent. Cosmos is offering both a complimentary car phone with no fee for either the installation or aerial through Midas Communications and deposits of £5. Tel 061-480-5799.

It may be better, however, to purchase holiday insurance elsewhere. In this event, check rates out before signing the booking form as most operators insist that equal or better benefits are in force with an insurer at the time the holiday booking is effected through an agent or operator direct.

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By putting off payment on winter bills until the summer, participants in the scheme may get a slight time value

Gas plan takes heat out of bills

A new British Gas advertising campaign to attract customers to its "budget payment" plan has produced record levels of interest.

It claims to be signing up 10,000 people a week for the scheme, which allows customers to even out gas payments over the year in fixed monthly instalments.

Under the plan, British Gas makes estimates of customers' annual gas consumption, based on a series of factors - for example, the size of the home, the number of people in residence, their employment status (jobs take people away from the home and therefore reduce gas consumption) and past use.

It claims the plan will reduce the level of disconnections due to unpaid bills. "We hope," said Mr Brian Sellers, assistant director of accounting services at British Gas, "that the advertising will encourage people who think they might have difficulties to talk to us."

"We'll do our best to find a suitable method of payment. Of course, it is better if customers contact us as soon as possible."

The budget payments advertising campaign is part of a long-term British Gas effort to reduce the level of disconnections and thereby improve public relations. The company claims disconnections are down 50 per cent on last year.

Victoria Griffith

Where there's a risk there's an indemnity

Ladbrokes offer 200 to 1 against a UK male player winning the Wimbledon singles in the next decade, 100 to 1 for a woman player doing likewise and the same odds for an alien landing on earth.

Similar principles operate in errors and omissions (E & O) insurance. A premium, or series of premiums, is paid against an event such as "persons dying of laughter while watching an hilarious video film".

The principle of E & O cover is in the General Confession from the Book of Common Prayer: "We have left undone those things which we ought to have done. And we have done those things which we ought not to have done."

Jennie Hawthorne

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Eagle Star UK High Income	10.9	1
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Income	-7.1	144

Source: "Financial Advisor" Magazine 4/1990, a Financial Times Publication.

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Source: "The UK Unit Trusts" published by BBA, the High Income Trust by 11.95% and the Environmental Opportunities Trust by 4.1%.
The figures since launch for the UK Growth Trust and High Income Trust are based on movements from 21.09 to 1.1.90 and for the Environmental Opportunities Trust for performance from 29.6.89 to 1.1.90.
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A record number of debtors will be pursued to bankruptcy this year and a record number of creditors will probably find that their thirst for revenge is given greater satisfaction than their pocket.

During the 1970s between 3,000 and 4,000 individuals were declared bankrupt each year. The average since 1981 has been 7,000, and the figures are rising.

Last year the sorry toll topped 8,000, while 9,000 seems well within reach for 1990 given continuing high interest rates.

Yet changes in the law which took effect at the year-end make taking a debtor through bankruptcy proceedings less remunerative for the creditors.

The 1986 Insolvency Act ruled that bankrupts, who have made a clean breast of things and co-operated with officials, will be discharged three years from the day the bankruptcy order was made. Bankrupts formerly had to wait a minimum of five years.

An estimated 25,000 discharges became automatic at the end of December.

The discharge wipes the slate clean: outstanding debts, tax arrears and even court costs can no longer be claimed unless fraud was involved.

The one exception is that assets held at the time of discharge can still be disposed of later and the proceeds distributed among creditors.

The discharge also removes restrictions imposed on a bankrupt. He cannot obtain more than £250 credit without disclosing that he is a bankrupt; he cannot be a company director; he cannot hold certain offices under the Local Government Act; and he cannot be an MP or solicitor.

While creditors receive a useful dividend in some bankruptcies, the cost of the proceedings falls on the estate and the official receiver takes precedence over creditors.

Mr John McQueen, secretary of the Association of Bankrupts, claims that, on average, costs swallow up 80 per cent of a debtor's assets.

"The bankruptcy machine feeds itself," he complains.

One point on which creditors are better off under the new rules is that they can force the sale of the family home 12 months after the bankruptcy order, even if this breaks up the debtor's family.

Mr McQueen says: "Under the old act the court had discretion to delay the sale of the home and that discretion was often used when there were small children.

"I remember one case of a

15-year delay where a woman had seven children.

"In other countries such as

Ireland you cannot force a wife to sell the home because her husband has gone bankrupt."

Often the most fruitful

course for debtor and creditor alike is a voluntary arrangement. Instead of going bankrupt, the debtor makes an offer, such as to pay so much

in the pound in full settlement of outstanding debts or to postpone payments until an asset can be realized.

Anyone in financial trouble

can attempt to make a voluntary arrangement to stave off bankruptcy.

Where an individual applies

to make himself bankrupt, the court will try to set up a voluntary arrangement if debts are no more than £20,000 and assets £2,000 or

more.

Research suggests that voluntary arrangements leave creditors 10 per cent better off than they would have been in bankruptcy procedures.

Mr McQueen says: "Very

few people know about voluntary arrangements. Many accountants and solicitors

are just not aware of it. A large number of bankruptcies could be avoided.

"Research suggests that voluntary arrangements leave creditors 10 per cent better off than they would have been in bankruptcy procedures."

County has taken matters further. Personality

and management record are just as important, it says, especially for the large trusts.

"We are trying to highlight

that these trusts can vary substantially," said Mr Hamish Buchan, County director.

"Ten years ago they all had

similar holdings. Today, they

are all trying to develop

characters of their own.

"We are seeing there is a big

difference between buying one

trust and another," said Mr Buchan. "A trust investing in a boom sector may do well

whatever the quality of the management."

County recently predicted

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"If we are correct in this,

then the biggest single market

will be good, dependable,

balanced total return trusts

offering a diversified spread of assets."

A typical general trust portfolio has 58 per cent in Britain,

20 per cent in North America,

9 per cent each in Japan and

Europe, and 4 per cent in other Far Eastern markets.

The big 13 are: Alliance,

Anglo & Overseas, British

Assets, Edinburgh Invest-

ment, Fleming Overseas, For-

ign & Colonial, Globe,

Govett Strategic, Murray

International, Scottish East-

ern, Scottish Mortgage and

Witan.

Whitechurch Securities of

Bristol has launched the War-

rant Account, focusing on

highly volatile warrants of

split capital investment trusts.

There is a 6 per cent fee and an

annual management charge of

10 per cent of gains, plus VAT.

The minimum investment is

£2,000.

F&C tops league of general trusts

Foreign & Colonial has come out top of a league for general investment trusts.

It joins the ranks of Alliance, Globe and Murray International as the ones to watch in the 1990s, according to a review, published today, of the largest trusts by County NatWest WoodMac.

It compares the "Big Thirteen" trusts, and gives Foreign & Colonial a standing ovation, enthusing: "This is the blue chip, the one to beat."

"Foreign & Colonial is the company you buy because you believe in the management and in their continued ability to spot market and currency trends."

While Alliance emerges as "a sound bet" for investors keen on Britain and the US, Globe wins points for being "large, diversified and surprisingly versatile".

Murray Johnstone, meanwhile, has scored something of a coup. "How do you satisfy a UK bear/US and Euro bull while providing a 5 per cent yield?" The answer is buy Murray International".

Although past performance in such surveys, County has taken matters further. Personality and management record are just as important, it says, especially for the large trusts.

"We are trying to highlight that these trusts can vary substantially," said Mr Hamish Buchan, County director. "Ten years ago they all had similar holdings. Today, they are all trying to develop characters of their own."

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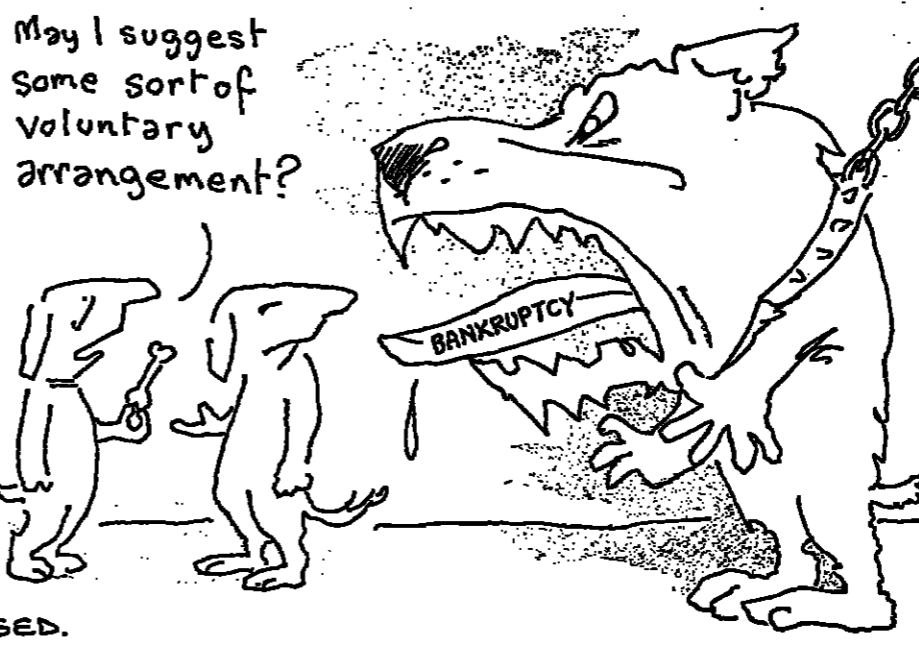
Jon Ashworth

FAMILY MONEY

Rodney Hobson on the problems of bankruptcy proceedings

Creditors recover more with voluntary schemes

May I suggest some sort of voluntary arrangement?



in favour otherwise the scheme cannot be imposed on all creditors. As a safeguard, court approval is also required.

Even a voluntary arrangement can be costly, working out at £1,000 to £4,000 depending on how complex the case is.

About 200 voluntary arrangements were set up in 1987 under the new Insolvency Act and the figure rose to 800 last year, still only about 10 per cent of the level of bankruptcies.

Mr McQueen says: "Very few people know about voluntary arrangements. Many accountants and solicitors are just not aware of it. A large number of bankruptcies could be avoided."

"Research suggests that voluntary arrangements leave creditors 10 per cent better off than they would have been in bankruptcy procedures."

"

Barclays keeping gifts on the cards

Barclaycard has announced

that it will be running its

Profiles scheme for a third

year. The scheme gives cardholders one point for every £10 spent using the card. Points can then be used to claim gifts.

The current scheme ends

next month, and no points

will be given in March and

April. Cardholders have until

the end of April to claim gifts,

but unused points can be put

into the next scheme, starting

with the May statement.

The present catalogue's

most popular gifts - with over

5,000 redemptions each - are

a portable telephone,

a personal stereo,

a coffee-maker

and a cordless screwdriver.

More than a million of the

1.6 million cardholders reg-

istered in the scheme have

claimed gifts, which have a

minimum price of 150 points.

Cardholders can give points to

the Royal National Lifeboat

Institution. This week,

Barclaycard handed it

£75,000.

Mr Richard Reay-Smith,

managing director of Barclays

Card Services, said: "The two

schemes have generated addi-

tional turnover on

Barclaycard running into hundreds

of millions of pounds as

customers have used their

card in preference to cash,

cheques or a rival card."

Midland Bank has decided

to end its points-for-gifts plan.

Its Access cardholders are

<p

- SHOPPING: THE ARTIST AS DECORATOR
- WINE: MYTHS AND LEGENDS
- COOK: AT THE MANDARIN, HONG KONG
- EATING OUT: JAPANESE

REVIEW

SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1990

Passion of a racing community

Whippet-racing is the earthiest of sports, and the rag-racing version on Tyneside a folk culture in its own right. There are no dressed-up crowds, and no gambling. But the *amour* is intense, the victor's trophy a glittering prize.

Alan Franks
reports

The ragged lure twitches into life and sets off across the field at a breakneck pace, bobbing and bucking like a hare on the rough grass; pulled by a Heath Robinson thing in the middle distance. As we shall see, this is a world not of tattiness but ingenuity.

The whippets scent the action and come roaring from the portable traps in a blur of shiny and sinew. You blink and it is all over; the racers, 20-odd pounds of nonsense dog, have dwindled into specks on the far side of the field — just about vanished with the speed of a rocket into the sky.

The winner on this New Year morning is S. Express in a time of 8.92 seconds, which is quick enough for 150 yards, but no threat to Crackerjack's three-year-old course record of 8.38.

There are no large crowds here on the expanse of recreation ground behind the Drift Inn at Seaton Burn, a village just off the A1, six miles up the road from Newcastle. No gambling either; just the men and women, some young, some old, some children, and the dogs, all of them panting breaths of mist into the grey air.

Yet this, being a bank holiday, is a special trophy meeting, and the dogs are competing for the George Griffiths Shield, named after the landlord of the Moorhouse pub, to which the dog-racers will repair at the end of the competition. You could not sniff more passion, more commitment, or any of those other sensations claimed by professional sport, if you were at a Tyneside soccer derby.

The men say that the dogs have their own internal clocks, by which they know when the important races are due to fall, and brace themselves accordingly. They, the animals rather than the men, grow twitchy and short-tempered in the hours before the start, and have to be muzzled in case they turn nasty. When they do turn nasty, it is usually the master who is the target.

This is a complete character transformation, from the pally and clubbable creature, who has probably spent the rest of the week as a pet, and a courting dog. The third element of their potential may claim them only fleetingly, but when it does so, it has them under its teeth, so that the nine seconds and the 150 yards seem to become their life's sole focus and justification. This is amateur sport, and the *amour* is intense.



Portrait of a racing man: Ernie Forster, chairman of Seaton Burn Whippet Racing Club, and his dog, Blackie. To him the attraction of the sport is "the fun; the sheer thrill of the race"

We are witnessing rag-racing, which is the informal and fiercely independent end of whippet competition. While pedigree events are overseen by the Whippet Club Racing Association, rag-racing has no national governing body. The clubs, like this one at Seaton Burn, are the prime unit, appointing their own committees and drawing up their own sets of rules.

Seaton Burn, for example, is very hot on conduct, which comes partly from the belief that rag-racing is re-emerging in pockets of the north-east of England as a family pastime. Just as the committee can, and does, bar dogs from racing if they have shown viciousness on the track, so they will suspend members for swearing and abuse. According to the club's chairman, Ernie Forster, this measure had to be invoked recently.

What had the offending member done, that the committee should bar him? "Oo, it woornt, a he, it woor a she. She started complaining about how the club

wore run, an' er language got a bit too strong."

Talk to different whippetters on Tyneside and you will hear such different accounts of the sport's condition that they are at times contradictory. One version has it that since it is traditionally a miner's pursuit, and since the mining population has thinned out as a result of the pit closures of the 1980s, it follows that rag-racing must somehow have waned in sympathy. The other argument is that since it is one of the cheapest hobbies imaginable, it actually flourishes in areas of unemployment. The experience of Cramlington, Coxhoe, Killingworth and Wallsend, all of which have well-supported clubs, bears out the second theory.

"It's definitely surviving," says Shirley Brown, secretary of Seaton Burn. "Some of the pedigree whippet fraternity may look down on it, but perhaps they have a vested interest in saying it's not doing well. I think that when there was a spread in greyhound racing

that had a bad effect on us, because there was money to be made there."

"Maybe the 19 to 30-year-olds are not so interested in rag-racing, but the older ones and the younger ones certainly are, and I would say it's quite flourishing. My own daughter is 17 and she has been going since she was two. Then there's men like Billy Clegh, who's 74 now and still racing his dogs. He was one of the founder members of Seaton Burn 30 years ago. The number of dogs seems to drop, and then suddenly it explodes again."

"One of the big differences between us and the pedigree association is that theirs is organized in weight classes, while we time the dogs on the day and arrange the handicaps accordingly. They view it as a horse-racing type of thing, and we see it as a natural selection process."

Many of the rag-racing dogs are the result of cross-breeding with a lurcher or a greyhound several generations back. Over a longer distance a good greyhound could be expected to outrun a good whippet, but the latter has a different kind of stamina.

For example, S. Express, the New Year's Day winner, had taken part in seven race meetings in 11 days. And in order to win today's trophy the same dog had run no fewer than eight races in the course of the morning — five heats, two semi-finals, and the final.

Perhaps the sport is best described as Greyhounds in the Vernacular. The set-up at the recreation ground is too easily dismissed as hick and ramshackle, when in reality it is the sporting expression of a community with a history of resourcefulness. The Heath Robinson thing in the middle distance is a wooden platform mounted on pram wheels, with a beer crate housing the go-kart motor that spools in the lure. The traps are similarly home-made affairs of metal and wood, stored in an unheeled goods wagon next to the cricket pavilion. If that much is the result of improvisation, the animals themselves are the most thoroughly tuned racing machines, with a competitive life of up to nine years.

From the expressions on the owner's faces as their dogs devour the ground, the men could be any boys in any park testing some marvellous remote-controlled, shout-sensitive toy in which they have invested all their time and pocket money, "it's all done for the fun," says Forster. "That's the

"slippers" and bawled into top gear by their rag-waving owners behind the finishing line. The performance of the dog hinged on the force and efficiency of his send-off, much as does a modern bobsleigh.

Despite all the hubbub, the rivalry and the reputations won and lost, the sums involved remain the smallest of beers. At Seaton Burn, which has 20 members, it costs the owner £1.10 to enter his dog for a race, of which 10p goes to the boys who run the rag back for the start of the next race. Of the remaining £1, 90p is put towards prizes, 7p into club funds, with 3p funding the Dog and Bitch of the Year awards, which are contested on a points-per-meeting basis in the course of the calendar.

Here, an average racing dog would sell for about £40, and, barring injury, incur minor running costs. For example, S. Express's fuel intake consists of vitamin tablets, meal and Chappie.

A according to Alan Harbottle, who runs the rag machine, some owners swear that good butcher's meat, particularly ox hearts, and an avoidance of tinned food, is reflected in the performances. Bert Marcel, Shirley Brown's father, shakes his head sceptically. He is the club's handicapper, a successor to the much-respected Artie Robson. Marcel has the crucial job of timing each dog during the heats and converting the result into a handicap for the day, at the rate of one seven hundredth of a second per yard.

Both he and Harbottle say they have seen feelings run very high in a disputed finish, but that it has never quite come to blows. They recall Crackerjack's record run as a classic day in the club's history, and argue that the time was exceptionally good, given that Seaton Burn is a heavy course.

On a day like this, when the North Sea has been transferring itself drop by drop on to the nearest land, the 8.75 across the sodden nec is more than respectable.

Dogs are not always *personae gratae* in the Moorhouse, but S. Express is not being asked to leave. He has about him the same lean and triumphant look as the one which fellow Geordie Jack Charlton carries these days. The owner is Bill Savage, a local miner employed at Durham. He is like his dog: quiet, pleasant, and with not a spare ounce about him.

George Griffiths steps out from behind the bar to present the shield which bears own name. The inscribed panels flesh in the New Year gloom. This is where the money is; £400 a year on trophies, so that the winner can be given a replica to keep at the end of his year of tenure. After the rag machine, the DIY traps and the static goods van, this stack of wood and silverware laid out on a bar table before the fire is coming extremely close to ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK DANIELS
Country Times and Landscape



The lure man: Alan Harbottle, who runs the "rag" machine, says "good butcher's meat" makes good racers

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T1025

Rival US film companies ready to march on the Continent before 1992

Paramount takes a leading role in UK

Artistic talent in Britain and the liberalization of the Eastern bloc are two factors attracting an American invasion of Europe's film industry, says Martin Waller

"The British are coming!" was Colin Welland's proud boast as *Chariots of Fire* swept the board at the 1982 Oscars ceremony. Nowadays, it seems, the running shoe is on the other foot.

Paramount's decision this week to set up a base in London from which to originate and develop pictures using purely European talent was widely welcomed in film industry circles. It was seen as representing another vote of confidence in the European market by the world's biggest motion picture industry. More big studios are expected to follow suit soon.

A host of Los Angeles studio executives headed by Mr Sidney Ganis, the president of Paramount's Motion Picture Group, were in London to fete the opening of the London office.

The first fruits of the venture should go into production this autumn. Paramount launched its initiative on the back of this year's favourite for the quality end of the Oscar market, *Shirley Valentine*, which brought Pauline Collins fame in the United States playing a bored Liverpudlian housewife experiencing a new awakening on a Greek holiday.

Shirley Valentine was this year's big "sleeper." Speculation suggests Paramount was initially unhappy to become involved in what looked like a typically downbeat product aimed specifically at up-market British tastes.

But the studio behind the money-spinning Indiana Jones films, starring Harrison Ford, was prepared to take a risk on a production which looked as if it might bring in artistic credibility if not hard cash.

Paramount is already well-entrenched in the British television industry through its November purchase of 49 per cent of Zenith, the production

company responsible for *Inspector Morse* and *The Paradise Club* and previously fully-owned by Mr Michael Green's Carlton Communications.

Columbia is thought to be the next US studio set to make its mark in Europe, with Paris as a likely base. Meanwhile, MCA last year announced plans for its own "Hollywood-on-Thames" — a Disney-style theme park on a run-down stretch of Essex marshland combined with a state-of-the-art studio. This replica of MCA's Universal Film Studios, in Los Angeles, planned for Rainham, south of Romford, will cost £2.6 billion and is being designed for MCA by Steven Spielberg. It will be named Universal City.

MCA's Los Angeles theme park is the most successful in Hollywood and is being duplicated at a \$500 million (£312 million) development in Florida, being built with Rank Organisation, of Britain.

The notion of combining a theme park and film studio is echoed at Euro Disney, being built 20 miles east of Paris at a cost of more than £1.4 billion. The project, set to open in 1992, was the subject of a heavily-hyped share issue in London last year, raising £607 million to give investors 51 per cent of the company, with Walt Disney Company, the parent, retaining the rest.

Largely overlooked at the time of the flotation, however, were the parent company's plans to put up a moderate-sized film production facility at the site. It may eventually build a full working studio in Paris similar to the one recently opened near Disney-land in Florida, said Mr Rich Frank, president of Walt Disney Studios.

Warner Communications has had other things on its mind over the past year than an invasion of the European market, not least the complex manoeuvres that led to its



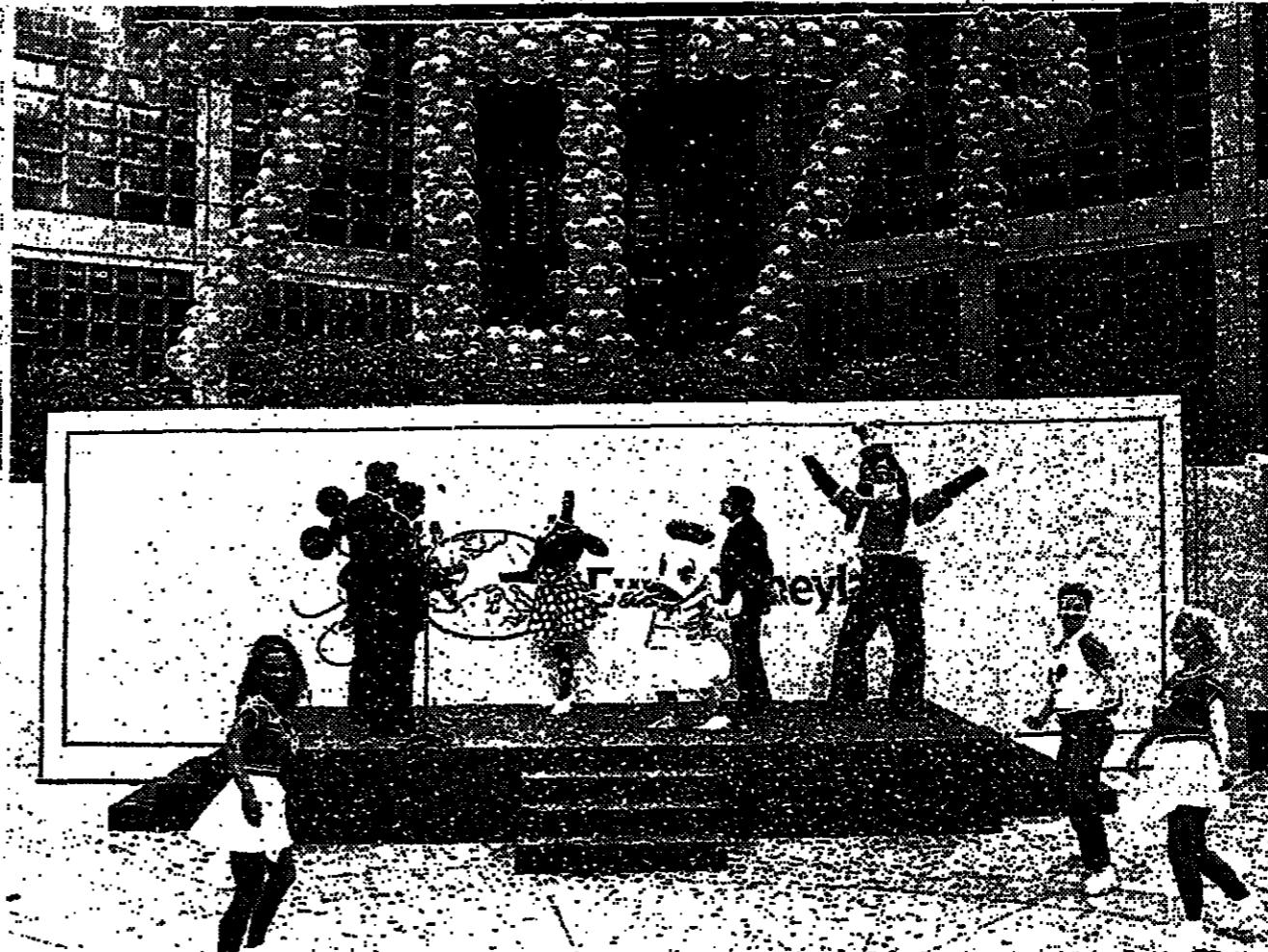
Collins: fame as a housewife

acquisition by Time Inc and the success of *Batman*, the movie. It will not open a European studio or production unit, preferring to supervise production at first hand.

Mr Mark Camion, executive vice president of Warner Bros and head in charge of the studio's worldwide production, said: "Quality control still sits under our big roof" in Burbank, California.

Instead, it is spearheading the move into multiplex cinemas, often located out of town with several screens, bars and restaurants. Warner Bros, which has opened three 10-screen multiplexes in this country in the past two years, expects by 1991 to have more than 100 screens in Britain and multiplexes in West Germany and Denmark.

In Hollywood, the motto *ars gratia artis* has ever served as a front for *ars gratia pecuniae*. Paramount's move into London was accompa-



Fantasy come true: Euro Disney shares have been strong performers in London since being offered to the public at 707p

nied by wide-eyed encomiums for the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the BBC, and other great cultural institutions apparently still the envy of our transatlantic brethren.

What the film moguls want is a slice of a growing pie, if

it comes to television. The Euro-

necessary by sneaking in before the barriers come down in 1992.

Recent events in Eastern Europe have enlarged that pie even further, promising a captive audience which is unsophisticated when it

comes to television. The Euro-

pean market consists of one of target audiences. Paramount is likely to focus on the English language market, hence its choice of London as a base for operations.

The history of Hollywood's

relationship with European

cinema has been a troubled one. David Lean, the British

director, made *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Lawrence of Arabia* with Sam

Spielberg, his associate

George Lucas, the man behind

Star Wars, and Mr Jim Henson of Muppets fame. But

the Americans' support failed

to include financial guarantees. A suggested price tag for Goldcrest, including the Elstree development, whose

future will be decided by the local planning authority this month, is £90 million.

Roped in to provide moral

support during that fight were

Spielberg, his associate

George Lucas, the man behind

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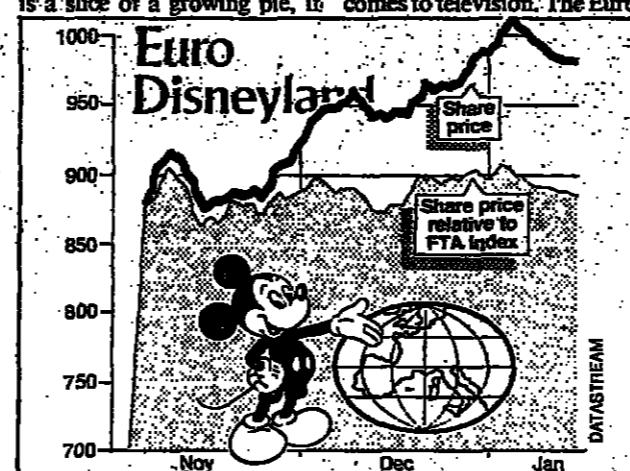
month, is £90 million.

Mr Patrick, at the BFTPA

said: "Whatever their

motives, we're so short of

production, we'll take money from anybody."



Consistent strong performance: Euro Disney share progress

versus target audiences. Paramount is likely to focus on the English language market, hence its choice of London as a base for operations.

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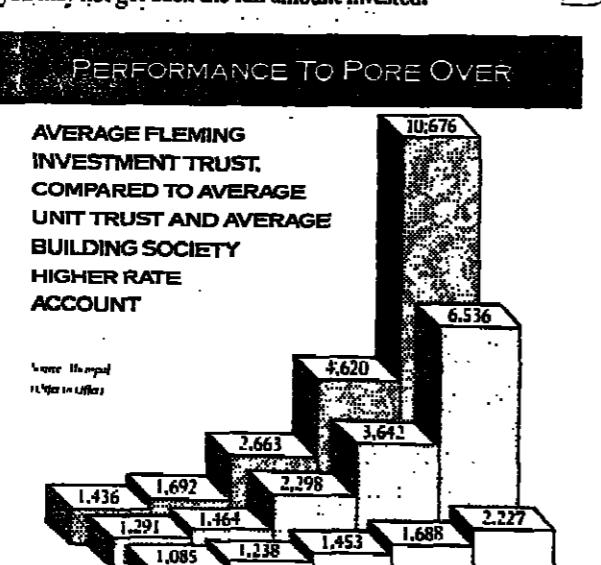
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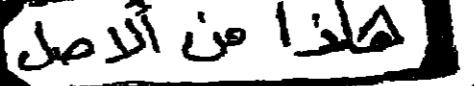
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vere...

'As a blind teenager, I once said "would you like to dance?" and it was to a man'

Then David Blunkett was a few months old, it was realized that he was blind. His mother, already in her forties and never very well, took the news badly. Her hair turned white and it was some time before she recovered from the shock. In 1947 there was not a great deal of guidance available for parents with handicapped children, particularly not on a Sheffield council estate. David's father worked for the Gas Board.

"My dad took my blindness much more practically. He would take me out for walks, me on my tricycle which he was supposed to keep on the end of a dog lead or rope. But sometimes he'd agree with me to let me go alone along the pavement, and on one occasion I went over the edge of the kerb and hit my head."

"He copped it from my mother, but he gave me a sense of adventure. He would take risks which parents don't do with youngsters who have handicaps."

The area of Sheffield in which they lived was not rough in the down-and-out sense, but poor in that the people who lived there had low-paid jobs — high in skill stains in the steel working community, but low in wages.

At four he was sent to a special school for the blind in Sheffield. He still has strong memories about going there for the first time, a Sunday evening in 1951.

"It must have been September because I can remember the sunshine at tea time (he can distinguish light from dark, and of course feel the sun) and the cathedral bells ringing and having to find my bed in the dormitory. The rule then was that we were only allowed home for a weekend every month, and our parents could come to see us on the Saturday in the intervening fortnights. I have fond memories of the place, of bathing in these big tin baths in the basement area and drying by an open fire, but I did feel very cut off from home. You miss the warmth and affection of the family."

"The problem with boarding school is that, inevitably, although the house mothers were loving and kind they weren't your family. They'd give me a good-night kiss and because I can remember looking forward to that good-night kiss I think it speaks volumes in terms of what I missed."

In those days there was only one boys' grammar school for the blind in the country and an exam based on the 11-plus, taken at 12, had to be passed. Although he has subsequently shown he is very bright, David Blunkett failed.

The alternative was a boarding school in Shrewsbury. He was due to start in January 1960, but in the



Blunkett as a child, with friend

December his father was critically injured in an explosion at work. He died in early January. Two weeks later Blunkett left Sheffield for his new school.

"That would have been quite a traumatic time in anyone's life at the age of 12 — just coping with his death — and having to cope with the new school made it a very profound moment. My dad had

worked for the Gas Board for 47

years and was past the age of retirement but had stayed on to help train other people.

"The Gas Board tried to deny they had to pay compensation on the grounds that his working life was over. In the end, after years of trying, the union did obtain compensation but it was minimal and I was 15 or 16 by then. It was very bad for my mother."

"That is something you take on board and remember. I don't hold anger inside me, I don't bottle away with resentment. But I want to ensure nobody else finds themselves in those circumstances."

By the time he was in his teens at his Shropshire boarding school he was already, he thinks, something of a stirrer for good causes. At 13 he led a delegation demanding, not unreasonably, that the boys should be allowed more than one clean shirt a week ("I just wanted to wear a clean shirt").

By 16 he was, in his own words, "an angry youngster who wanted to change the world" and had joined the Labour Party. It was the beginning of his refusal to take no for an answer, to prove he could be on equal terms with everyone else.

"I didn't want to be better than anyone else, just equal. And I wanted to show my mother that I could do it, that I could achieve, and that I could do something to help look after her."

The hurdles must have seemed

ing down his cheeks. Perhaps I had said the wrong thing.

Professor Ricks, who had edited the book, kicked off the meeting by introducing himself as the Chairman of the Launch Party.

"Chairperson, if you wouldn't mind," interjected Ms Sandra M. Loopee, reader in Wrongfully Assumed Male Dominance at the University of Milwaukee.

"My mistake," said Ricks. "My mistake what?" said Professor Clive Grum, who has done so much to improve the language of prison life with his pioneering work *Grammar in the Slammer*. "My mistake" does not constitute a sentence, as it is without verb or object."

"Pardon," said Ricks. Glancing over at Amis, I could see him bristle. "Next he'll be saying 'Cheers'." I heard him mumble to himself.

"Oh, no, it won't be as bad as all that," I replied. "Hopefully." Amis's face darkened and his brow began to twitch in uncontrollable fury. Had I said something wrong? I thought that I had better do something to patch things up, so I said: "To be honest, I'm not all that interested in the state of the language. In fact, you might say that I was thoroughly disinterested in it."

Oddly enough, he failed to seize the olive branch, proceeding to his seat in the committee room with tears pouring

"company" (itself a word reeking of capitalism and corporatism) signified an outdated belief in the myth of individual personality. On the other hand, the traditionalists, among them the current Oxford Professor of Advanced Pedantry, pointed out that the *Oxford English Dictionary* gave a primary definition of the word pleasure as "sensual enjoyment as a strict object of life or end in itself", and they wished to dissociate themselves most vehemently from any such pronunciation.

The phrase "Please bring this invitation with you" proved equally calamitous, Sandra M. Loopee believing that the word invitation represented an unnecessary degree of obsequity to the dominant order and arguing for the less class-based "Please bring this text with you".

In the end, it was agreed that seven different invitations would be printed to meet all the various needs. Alas, the invitation printed especially for Mr Amis — "Bring a bottle and bird" — was sent by mistake to Mr Enoch Powell, who, acting in strict accordance to the letter of the invitation, arrived with a cocktail on his shoulder.

When the chairman expressed his astonishment, Mr Enoch Powell explained that he had expressly NOT brought a hat, as a bat was, of course, not a bird but a mammal.

When sir? a waiter said to Mr Powell as he entered the crowded room check-by-jowl with other learned experts. "Is that to which you refer wine with an 'h' or wine in which the 'h' is absent?" replied Mr Powell. "For it is the former, I am not by nature a winner, and must, therefore, decline your request, and if it is the latter, I



David Blunkett and his guide dog Offa: "I didn't want to be better than anyone else, just equal. And I wanted to show my mother I could do it"

Photograph by
Nick Rogers

nities which are taken for granted by those who have always had those opportunities". Ambition forced him to take his opportunity. By now he had his first guide dog (the first dog to be allowed into the Palace of Westminster when, on a visit, he was told no dogs could be admitted and created a fuss), and had been elected as a councillor to Sheffield City Council when a vacancy occurred. Even today, he is a city councillor at 22 is unusual. In 1970 it was unheard of. He was certainly a serious young man.

When asked when childhood ended, he has two answers. Having to look after himself away

from home for so much of his boyhood meant, he missed much that childhood usually offers. So he grew up early in that sense.

Emotionally, however, he was a late developer. "Living at home I found my mother was inevitably over-protective towards me and I was over-keen to set myself up independently, to break away and to establish my normality and be just like everybody else."

Married at 23 while at university (he and his wife Ruth, from whom he is now separated, have three sons: Alastair, 12, Hugh, 9,

and Andrew, 7) he took an upper-second at Sheffield (while the other undergraduates were into student politics, he was doing the real thing). For a time he toyed with the idea of journalism, but then went into teaching as tutor of industrial relations at Barnsley College of Technology.

But politics was the greater draw and from 1980 to 1987, when he entered Parliament, he was the leader of Sheffield City Council.

Today he moves confidently around Westminster with his guide dog Offa, more a politician

than a parliamentarian, he says, interested in getting things done. It is difficult to imagine him being content in opposition.

Despite the special help he receives, the braille writer and the readers who dictate information on to cassettes for him, reading is the problem it has always been and always is for the blind person.

Today the rough edges have gone. The ambition he feels now is quite different from the drive of the blind youngster who felt he was up against it in life. David Blunkett wants only to do a good job as a politician and to be judged on that — not as a blind man, but as an equal.

The last word in launch parties

My north-westerly colleague, Mr Ned Sherrin, seems to be invited to all the most sparkling parties, where the theatrical meet to exchange bows nots with the even more theatrical. But for many people the business of party-going is a more irksome and onerous affair. Every now and then this column will chronicle the less successful parties that take place every night in the capital. The first is the launch party for this month's major new publication, *The State of the Language* (Faber, £17.50), a widely-reviewed symposium of essays by academics and practitioners who feel strongly about the meaning behind the meaning behind the meaning of words.

I was a member of the committee for *The State of the Language* launch party, and I must now admit, I had long suspected that it was destined to be an infamous affair. I mentioned as much to my fellow committee member Mr Kingsley Amis, as we went into the first meeting together.

"Infamous? Infamous?" he spluttered. "What d'ye mean infamous? My dictionary defines infamous as 'evil fame or reputation, shameful vileness'. Is that what you really mean? Make yourself clear!"

"Oh, no, it won't be as bad as all that," I replied. "Hopefully."

Amis's face darkened and his brow began to twitch in uncontrollable fury. Had I said something wrong? I thought that I had better do something to patch things up, so I said: "To be honest, I'm not all that interested in the state of the language. In fact, you might say that I was thoroughly disinterested in it."

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you will be putting, that is to say a glass in which the requisite amount of water has previously been deposited for consumption by those overtaken by thirst."

Poor Ricks had quite some trouble getting the dancing going, I'm afraid. He thought that a quick rollock through the "Hokey Cokey" might prove an ice-breaker, but instead it proved a minefield. "Could you all form a circle," he said, and, in seconds, havoc had broken out. Some had begun to draw small circles on pieces of paper, while others had formed literary and artistic circles, and were busy issuing manifestos and forming ill-fated attachments to one another.

"You put your left arm in," began Ricks when most people had taken their places. "Is that your left or our left?" asked the Oxford Professor of Advanced Pedantry. "For it is the former, I am not by nature a winner, and must, therefore, decline your request, and if it is the latter, I

have to sit this one out." Alas, when the command, "Do the Hokey Cokey and turn around" was issued by Ricks, the rifle of learned hands through Volume H of the *OED* was quite deafening, and the already sporadic dancing came to a complete standstill as each person tried to discover what on earth Ricks was on about.

"Left and right is outmoded terminology signifying an unquestioning belief in hierarchical and linear distinctions representing a desire for the fragmentation of the political structure of the ruled by those ruling," chipped in Sandra M. Loopee. "I would therefore prefer us all to sing. A hand has or may have been put in, a hand has or may have been put out."

"In where? Out where?" asked Thomas P. Szitt, the noted linguistic theoretician. "The instructions are hopelessly vague." "One should not forget, of course, that hand has an important secondary meaning of 'hired help or assistant,'" Professor Klute reminded us. "The Parcel was a wash-out, as a number of experts, misinterpreting the command, strode, with scant success, to the Parcel. The party fizzled to a close soon afterwards. Will the book be a greater success than the party? Hopefully."

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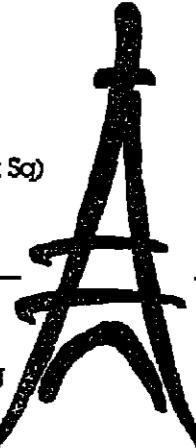
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THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

Spread out the Vegemite

Australia: I acclimated on the plane by spreading the Vegemite thick and plundering the Australian news sheets. I prepared myself for unnatural heat, punch-ups between police and Aborigines and a strange new vocabulary. In the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Jodi Whiting (16) pronounced on the New Year celebrations: "Last year it was really grouse. This year it was just boring. If grouse means good it will describe my journey."

As we Qantassed our way comfortably across the sub-continent, winking fitfully, I swear that from 33,000ft I caught a glimpse of the Taj Mahal in floodlight if not moonlight and, yes, it did look like a biscuit tin.

I am in an English colony. Victor Spinetti is already here. Elton John is expected. Mike Batt is in residence at the Sydney Conservatoire. Ivor Spencer is teaching young Australians how to be butlers and there is an invasion of European wasps (*Vespa Germanica*). These have been here since 1958 and are believed to have arrived via New Zealand in a crate of Second World War aircraft parts.

On arrival I was welcomed with three iced lime daiquiris at the Sydney Festival Club in the grounds of the Hyde Park Barracks, a beautiful building which started its ugly life as a convict prison. Music was pounded out by a rock group called Fargone Beauties (say it aloud in a heavy Australian accent).

Thirty hours after waking in World's End I fell asleep in the spare room of my host, Ken Groves, in Potts Point, Woolloomooloo.

I CAME HERE to open Victor Spinetti's one-man show at the Playhouse Theatre in the Sydney Opera House complex and to host a two-continent edition of *Loose Ends* 24 hours after I landed. A

10am transmission in London means a 9pm start from this end.

At 8pm I was in the middle of a cocktail party at the Copplesons, whose handsome house in smart Rose Bay has a spectacular view up the harbour towards the glowing skyscrapers of north Sydney. The foreground picture beyond the garden wall is white sand and big, friendly, strutting grey guulls.

Regular readers will not be surprised to hear that I nearly failed to make it to the 2BL ABC studio in King's Cross. ABC shares this neck of the wood with the famous red-light workers. I was assured that Rose Bay was a mere five minutes away and that it is the easiest place in Australia to get a taxi.

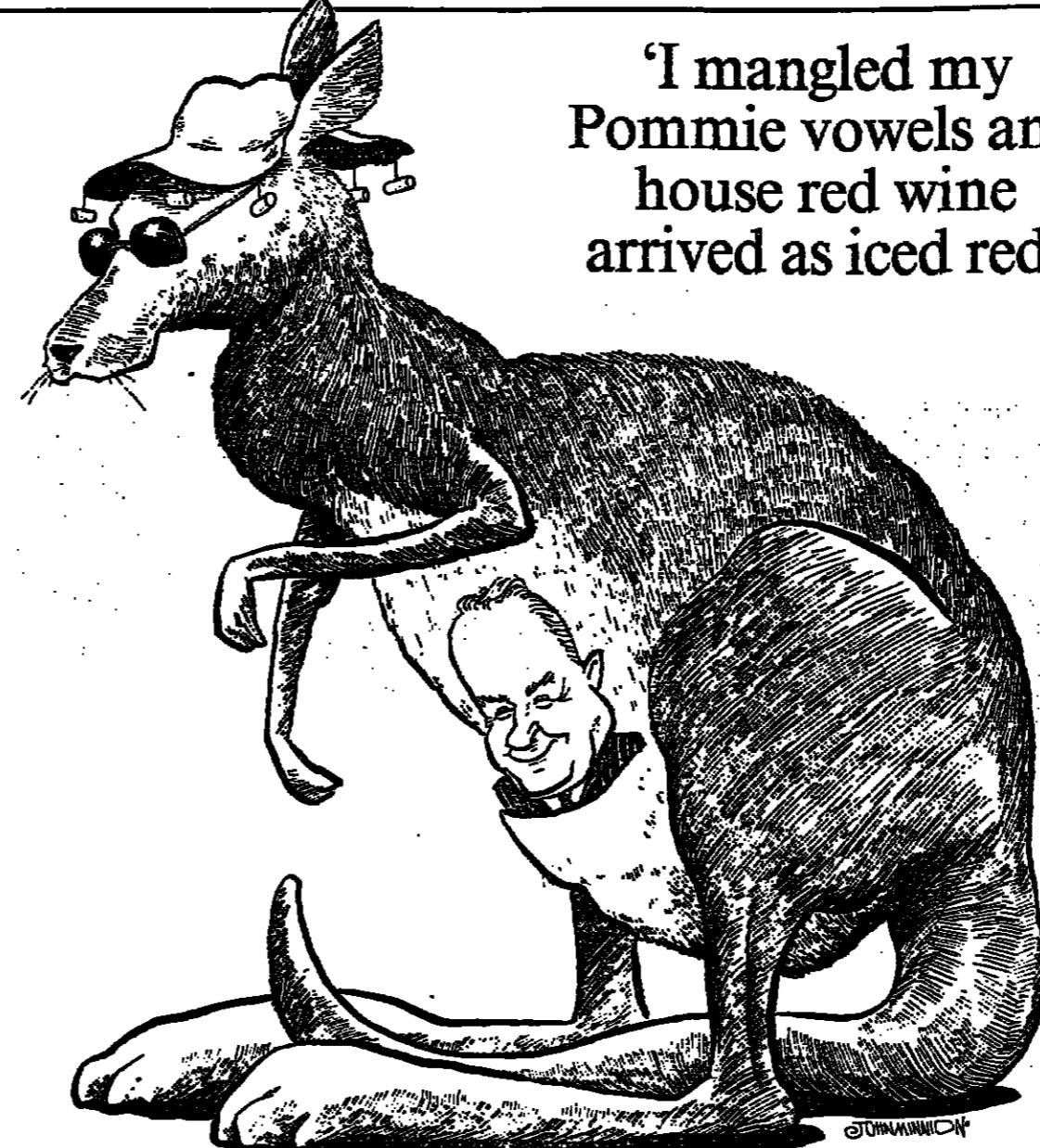
As I waited, the heavens opened and giant slabs of electric storm carved up the sky. I huddled under an awning, joined by a pretty girl who described herself as a model. We agreed to share a cab. I dropped her in pouring rain at the corner of Williams Street. It was now that the driver decided he did not know where 2BL was and suggested I hunt for it on foot.

Yes, he did understand I did not know my way, indeed he had felt much the same recently in Norway when he found himself stranded with a backpack and a broken leg.

As he drove off I saw two friendly ladies of the night standing by the kerb in bright plastic macs. They had never heard of 2BL.

When I returned after circling the building a few times, they had been replaced on their beat by two even more friendly statuesque six-footers with much deeper voices and no better information.

By now it was 8.45pm and, considerably bedraggled, I spotted the box-office of the tiny Crossroads Theatre, advertising Frank McGuinness's play *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching to the Somme*. I reckoned that any company with



the nous to put on a play which won a *Standard* Most Promising Newcomer Award would know how to get to a radio station. They did.

A fascinating interviewee on the show was Valerie Taylor, a shark photographer who worked on *Jaws I* and *II*. She has had her leg bitten through by an Ocean Blue which she was tempting with minced mackerel far off the coast of California (he preferred leg to mince), her hand mashed by another and her chin opened up by a frenzied Grey Nurse Shark off Queensland. She firmly believes in shark conservation.

For all the sophistication of Sydney and its imaginative building developments, circling sharks, blazing bush fires, crook crocs, blinding lightning, burning sun and bronzed bodies are a constant reminder of the nearness of nature.

I HAVE NEVER known Spinetti as

'I mangled my Pommie vowels and house red wine arrived as iced red'

nervous as he was before the first preview here of his *Very Private Diary*. He spent Christmas with relatives in Queensland and, trying out tales of Joan Littlewood, Vivien Leigh and Tallulah Bankhead on them, he faced a blank wall of incomprehension.

Arriving in Sydney he was interviewed on Channel 9, the television station which is part of Alan Bond's beleaguered empire. As the cab was about to drop him the driver asked who was paying the \$9 fare. "Channel 9," said Victor. The cabbie promptly locked his doors and declined to let him out until he got his money.

He need not have worried, for his reception was rapturous. As I write, the newspaper notices have not appeared, but the radio reviews are unanimous and lyrical.

The next day we went to Bondi

Beach. The waves and the surfers' antics are spectacular, but I had not anticipated the neat curve of the bay or the tacky seafront — a bit of Bournemouth's faded Edwardian elegance here, a touch of Blackpool's rundown Golden Mile there. You can choose your fresh fillet of fish, watch it grilled and take it out on to the beach to eat. A Bloody Mary is called a Shark Attack and I must have been mangled my vowels in affected Pommie fashion because a glass of house red wine arrived as a glass of iced red wine.

LIGHT BULB jokes are still popular here as in: "How many Country and Western stars does it take to change a light bulb?"

"Ten. One to change it and nine to sing about what a good ol' bulb it was."

Next week New York.

FRANCES EDMONDS

If I were...

If I were Ron Brown, left-wing Labour MP for Edinburgh Leith, I would be recovering from the champagne celebrations of my "moral victory" at Lewes Crown Court this week. Ever a man of action rather than argument, a provocatively best exemplified by my virtuoso mace-bashing performance, I would not tax my intellect with minor semantic problems. How a conviction for criminal damage can be described as a victory, I would not bother to explain. What morality has to do with a sorry saga of adultery and knickers, I would not condescend to say.

As the dust and the flying Riesling bottles settled, I would start to count my many blessings. First, I would realize that in my wife, May, I have a pearl without price. What a lucky man I am to have the missus lay the blame exclusively on "the other woman". Second, I would hope to continue to count on the indulgence of my long-suffering constituents, the sort of people whom I assume "will not bother too much about the criminal damage". In a moment of doubt, I would wonder whether this image of anti-establishment, Scottish hooliganism is one they would choose. But such a rare bout of sensitivity would swiftly pass.

Only then would I start to worry about the fine, compensation and costs that I must pay. Recalling the recent career of that other notorious left-wing self-publicist, Derek Hatton, I would find myself an agent



... Ron Brown

and immediately set about my public relations talents. For obvious reasons, I would promise to eschew any future photo opportunities with my old friend, Colonel Gaddafi. These, I would belatedly concede, have all the PR appeal of a pile-up on the M25. Instead, I would start to frequent establishments such as Stringfellow's with a couple of aspiring Page Three "researchers" draped nonchalantly around my neck.

Lucrative offers would soon come pouring in. From the platform of my new "Agony Uncle" column, I would dispense advice to the nation's harried housewives, to women trying to cope with hard-drinking, bad-tempered and two-timing husbands. "Send them to the House of Commons," I would helpfully suggest. "It will not solve the problem, but at least there they will be less likely to stand out."

Before long I would be advertising an expensive range of men's toiletries, quite possibly "Homme Savage". Soft-focus shots of yours truly, cowering merrily in the shower, would dominate every department store. Soon I would be hosting my own television chat show and within weeks it would have an enormous cult following. Only then, as I started counting my cash, would I realize there is more to life than the frustrations of back-beach opposition. I would think back over my parliamentary career, a decade punctuated all too regularly by futile gestures, counter-productive rebellion and pointless iconoclasm. Overcome, not so much by shame as by a sudden sense of futility, I would decide to do the Labour party a favour. Noisy and *nouveau riche*, I would become a Conservative MP.



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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Passport to a crisis

13 JAN
1990
ISRAEL

Tel Aviv Airport is a confusion of noise and tears, as bewildered Russians, the women in head-scarves or woolen hats, the men flashing gold teeth and wheeling trolleys piled high with possessions, embrace Israeli officials armed with flowers, money and advice on housing and jobs. Set free by the Gorbachov reforms but barred from America by new US limits on immigration, Soviet Jews are pouring into Israel at the rate of 500 a day on flights from Budapest, Bucharest, and even directly from Moscow.

Resting under the shock of this massive wave of immigration, or *aliya*, which far exceeds earlier immigration from Russia in the Seventies under *détente*, Israeli officials are talking of a "national emergency", and the army reportedly has plans to hand over military camps for temporary housing. Shimon Peres, Israel's finance minister, has asked Israeli industry to create 20,000 new jobs this year; David Levy, the housing minister, has pledged to build or renovate 30,000 new flats. More than 100,000 Soviet Jews are expected this year, as well as immigrants from Eastern Europe and Ethiopia. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, has set up a special task force to cope with immigration, and speaks of a million Soviet Jews to be successfully absorbed within the next three to five years, with American Jewish organizations providing the estimated \$1 billion needed.

But at Gilo on the outskirts of Jerusalem, in one of Israel's 38 absorption centres, the cramped and squalid conditions tell another story. The system is simply bursting at the seams. The flats do not yet exist, or are far beyond the means of the new arrivals, while the jobs are also sought by Israel's own unemployed. In some cases, the airport tears of joy soon turn to tears of disappointment and despair.

Avram Rodstein, who arrived from the Ukraine a month ago

The Soviet Jews currently pouring into Israel are putting a severe strain on its resources,

Richard Owen reports

with his son, his daughter and her husband and their two children, stands weeping in a musty, bare room heated by one small gas fire (Jerusalem winters are cold), damp seeping through the plaster and mould sprouting from the ceiling. "They gave us pamphlets in Russian promising £300 in cash and free medicine for six months," he says in distress. "But I got only £100, and my son and son-in-law got nothing. And I have to pay for medicine for my heart condition. They told me the money was running out."

Others have similar stories. Dr Asya Sheiderova, a former children's doctor from Moscow, says as she describes how the Israeli police tried to evict her. She arrived three years ago, and immigrants are expected to find housing elsewhere after that time. "The bureaucracy here is worse than in Russia," she says bitterly. "We survived Hitler and Stalin, and thought we would be free in the country of the Jews, our own people. But here too they knock on the door in the middle of the night with eviction orders. I feel deceived, a third-class citizen."

According to the Jewish Agency, which helps to cope with immigration, such cases are not typical. "There is constant turnover at the absorption centres," says Gad Ben-Ari, the Jewish Agency's

spokesman. "Those left inside are the ones less able to find their feet in Israel." Some three-quarters of the new arrivals do not go to absorption centres, but stay with relatives or friends until they can find accommodation. For those who choose such "direct absorption" the authorities offer substantial help with the rent in the first year. Even at Gilo, some of the immigrants admit that living in a run-down room in Israel is preferable to staying in Gorbachov's Russia, "where you have to queue for two hours to get sausage, and the new freedoms include anti-Semitism".

Others say they wish they had stayed where they were. The growth of anti-Semitism in Russia is frequently cited by new arrivals as a reason for emigration. Yet paradoxically, many are barely aware of their Jewishness, and say openly that they would rather have gone to the US. "How can I get to America?" is often one of the first questions asked at the airport. "If I had known it would be like this, I wouldn't have come," says Sofia Polonskaya, a piano teacher from Leningrad. "My husband is a composer, and hopes to get a visa for Israel too. But if he knew the truth, he would try for America instead."

According to Julia Mireny, a clinical psychologist at the Hebrew University who came to Israel in the 1960s and now helps immigrants to adjust, the tensions arise not because of high expectations, but because the new arrivals have no expectations at all.

"In the Seventies we got committed Zionists such as Sharansky, who had been to prison for their beliefs," she says. "Their problems stemmed from the gap between the ideal and the reality. Many of the new immigrants have no ideals at all, no motivation, and they don't know Hebrew. They are not running to Israel, they are running away from Russia, which is quite different. They are refugees."

Others are concerned about the impact of the new Russian immigration on Israeli society. "Nearly all of them are right-wing, and will reduce the chances of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories," says Stern.



Homecoming to an uncertain welcome: Soviet Jewish couple arriving at Tel Aviv Airport, lured by a pledge of help with money, jobs and housing

by the finance ministry, the housing ministry and the absorption ministry over who is in charge of the "emergency".

Some suggest that Israel has less than a year in which to prove that it can find jobs and housing for the new arrivals. If the crisis worsens, experts say, the US might have to salvage the situation by reopening its doors. "That must not happen," says Ben-Ari. "We need the Russian Jews, and we want them. This is what the state of Israel was founded for. We must not fail."

"Either we will cope or there will be a catastrophe," says Yuri Stern, a former refusnik who now helps to run a pressure group called Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum. He believes that estimates of future immigration are, if anything, an underestimate, as families who arrive here invite those left behind to join them – unless, of course, those left behind are put off by the mounting difficulties.

When he returned to Moscow last month to attend the first ever conference of Soviet Jewish orga-

nizations, Stern was besieged by Soviet Jews submitting requests to come to Israel in the full realization that the Jewish state was not ideal. As East European nationalism has again come to the surface, and unpleasant right-wing organizations such as *Pamyat* (Memory) flourish in the Soviet Union, Stern says Jews are once again being "pushed out", and are even being used as scapegoats by Russians bewildered by the pace of change and the collapse of long-held illusions about Communism.

The film shows four families in everyday activities such as queuing at the bank, shopping in a supermarket, and visiting a kibbutz. It also shows new immigrants having to come to terms with service in the armed forces. But Sharansky and Stern admit that many Russian Jews are put off by the "socialist" aspects, and even refuse to accept the red-coloured membership card produced by Israel's trade union organization, the Histadrut.

"Russians are very sensitive to propaganda," the maker of the film, Ima Shapiro, says. "If you show them good, they will automatically believe that it is bad." In the end, the problem of absorbing Russian Jews on a massive scale could prove as much a cultural and psychological challenge as a practical and financial one.

MUSEUMS

Europe's museums are packing off to Paris to display their wares, Simon Tait reports

Fair play in Paris



Paris-bound: Liverpool museum curator Yannick Minvielle-Debat cleans the "Ismay Silver"

tell the international community about what we are and what we've achieved," the director of the NMGM, Richard Foster, says.

The NMGM is five Liverpool museums, brought together three years ago by the Government to give a focus to the troubled inner city and to lead an urban revival.

They will also see a lot of French museums, but at the first SIME – officially the Salon International des Musées et des Expositions, a mixture of public exhibition, trade fair and museum professionals' forum first held in 1988 – opens next Saturday in the Grand Palais, created in 1900 for the Universal Exposition.

The second SIME – officially the Salon International des Musées et des Expositions, a mixture of public exhibition, trade fair and museum professionals' forum first held in 1988 – opens next Saturday in the Grand Palais, created in 1900 for the Universal Exposition.

In its eight days, about 100,000 visitors will stroll around the presentation stands of 100 museums from nine European countries. With them will be not only European television and Press, but the American and Japanese media as well.

They will see museum stands designed by architects, including Aldo Rossi's for the West Berlin museums; they will see museums that haven't even been opened yet, such as Bonn's massive Kunsthalle, scheduled to open in 1992 they will see museums from Spain, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

They will also see a lot of French museums, but at the first SIME two years ago, which was five days long, 90 per cent of the representation was French. This year the proportion is 70-30. And last time there were no British museums. This year the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM) is to be the flagship for the UK flotilla.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to make contacts and to

in the display, because the ship was registered in Liverpool. So there will be such things as a first-class ticket, a lifeboat nameplate and a life jacket.

There will also be continuous demonstrations of how to put ships in bottles, by the maritime museum's resident expert, Des Newton. Half of the £15,000 cost of the foray into Europe is being met by sponsorship from the NMGM's Friends groups and its Manchester-based public relations consultants, Crawford Hall.

We want to do a number of things in Paris, as well as introduce ourselves to a new public," Foster says. "We want to make contact with our European

colleagues and talk to them about exchanging exhibitions, swapping loans and our research work. We want to tell them about our education programme – particularly our new Natural History Centre [a runner-up in The Times-Shell Community Museum Award competition held last year]. We want to interest European museums in our publications and we want to see if we can attract sponsorship from European companies."

Representing the more avant-garde British museums will be the Museum of the Moving Image, a runner-up in The Times-Shell Museums Year Trophy competition for innovation, which will be sharing a stand with other European museums of film and television.

The National Galleries of Scotland will be there, but not with objects. "We decided that

to take objects which would not suffer under the lights and in the changeable atmosphere would give the wrong impression," says Timothy Clifford, the director of the group.

On his stand he will recreate

the theme of the main national gallery on Edinburgh's Mound, recently restored to its colourful mid-19th century appearance, with reproductions of some of the great paintings in the museums: Gauguin, Cézanne, Reynolds and Raeburn are among the masters whose work will be carrying the Scottish banner.

"I think we ought to be out there selling ourselves. I'm sad that our London colleagues are not able to be there, but in subsequent years you'll see more and more British museums at SIME," Clifford says.

The instigator and main organizer of SIME, with a budget of £1 million, is Jean-François Grunfeld, who wants the next event, in 1992, to be even bigger. "There were important museums which were not ready for SIME 1990, but who have booked for 1992, such as the Barcelona Museum. This year we have more space than last time, which has meant that we can give more room to the museums. For 1992 I hope we will have many more British museums, and I want to get the ratio of French to non-French museums down to 50-50."

"We have been encouraged by the number of curators who are coming from Britain. I've had a letter from the Area Museums Councils saying that they are sending between 20 and 30 managers."

"Having established SIME in Paris, I think that the main exhibition has to be held here every two years. You wouldn't expect the Frankfurt Book Fair to be anywhere else, would you?"

Sixties and Seventies. Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 3699). Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2pm-8pm. Free.

VICTORIAN VALUES: Children pass verdict on half a day spent in a Victorian classroom, with paintings, poetry, prose, models and photographs. The local historical association and Sherratt and Hughes, the booksellers, award two cash prizes of £25 to the best entries on Wednesday.

JOYCE MUSEUM, Newcastle upon Tyne (091 233 4562). Tues-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm. Free.

A BRIGHTER WORLD: Illuminated manuscripts from the 12th to 16th centuries show outstanding examples of religious art and the wealth of religious life in the Fifties.

EXHIBITIONS

the church which produced them, including an introductory display which explains the principles of manuscript production.

A SHAMOLEAN MUSEUM, Basingstoke, Oxford (0865 276000). Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2-4pm. Admission free.

ILLUMINATED: The beauty of the painted word comes to Cambridge. Italian illuminated manuscripts from the 12th to 16th centuries show outstanding examples of religious art and the wealth of

COLLECTING

SALES

RH14 9AD (0403 783933). Viewing: tomorrow 2.30-5pm, Mon, Tues 9.30am-4.30pm, Wed 9.30am-3pm, Thurs 10.30am-1pm, Thurs 10.30am.

CHESTER MOULDS: A collection of 4,000 late 19th-century carved wooden mirror and furniture moulds are being offered, the stock of a small company which produced ornamental decorations in Lancashire (est 12 feet £500-22,000).

SUSSEX SURPRISES: 480-piece ceramics section is the final session in a comprehensive three-day sale covering many collecting fields.

SOTHEBY'S, Summers Place, Billingshurst, West Sussex (est £15,000-223,000).

Sotheby's, 28-30 Watneys Street, Cheltenham GL1 2NA (0244 311311). Viewing: today 9.30am-12.30pm, Mon 9.30am-3.30pm, Tues 9.30am-5pm, Wed 10.30am.

CUTLERY AND CANTELESTICKS: A cased canteen of fiddle-pattern flatware for six (est £200-£250) is among several dinner party essentials in this sale of English and continental silver. There is also a canteen for eight (est £750-£1,000) and a third in king's pattern for 12 (est £1,600-£2,400).

BONHAMS, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 1HH (01-580 9161). Viewing: Sun 2.30-5pm, Mon 8.45am-7pm, Tues 9.30am-10.30am. Sale: Tues 11am.

John Shaw

Rocking horse winners

I cannot tell how many rocking horses may be made in London every year," said a craftsman specializing in these traditional Victorian toys when interviewed by the *Morning Chronicle*. "Perhaps it may be calculated this way," he said. "There are 30 men employed in making rocking horses and every man can make two a week. That gives 3,120 a year."

What has happened to all the rocking horses? How many horses still sport one in the nursery or the attic? Or are they all in collections? And are there companies still manufacturing them?

To answer the last question first, there are about 10 companies, as well as a number of small one-man businesses, still making rocking horses in Britain.

And there are, of course, a number of large collections, notably at Pollock's Toy Museum, the Museum of London and the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh.

But the past few years have also seen an increase in the number of private collectors. It is still possible to find a traditional pillar stand rocking horse, carved out of wood blocks glued together, made at the beginning of this century. A good specimen of this type could cost more than £1,000, while for an early large Victorian bow rocker you must expect to pay in excess of £2,000 for a horse in any condition.

The best period was in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Horses dating from this time are highly stylized, with exaggerated features. They are

found in the only commonly available book on the subject, *Rocking Horses* by Marguerite Fawdry, published in its second edition in 1989 by Pollock's Toy Theatres of Scale Street, London W1.

Nowadays the only constraints on the size of a collection are space and price. In the case of one of the largest collections in the country, owned by Elizabeth Organ, at Clyro, Hereford and Worcester, space is no problem as she lives in a large Georgian country house and spreads her collection over six rooms.

But price is a different matter. Organ started her collection 25 years ago and it now includes most types of horse. Generally, however, they were rather narrow, often painted with large irregular spots, and had their heads down in a racing position.

Rocking horses on pillar stands – otherwise known as safety stands – were an American idea that came to this country in the 1830s. The idea was to produce something more compact than the huge Victorian rockers.

The best-known manufacturer between 1850 and 1931 was Lines Brothers – which later, as Triang Toys, became a household name. The company had its headquarters in the Old Kent Road, London, and supplied leading stores such as Harrods with models that were sold as "own breed".

Harrods still sells rocking horses of both types under its own label, but nowadays it is more common to buy new horses direct from manufacturers. A list of these can be

Clive Fewins

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John Shaw

EATING OUT

Tokyo on the Thames

Jonathan Meades visits London's latest Japanese restaurants

FRANCIS MOSLEY

When we talk of forms of alien cooking being rendered "accessible" we are usually referring to some act of bowdlerization that is intended to court the timid tongues of a squeamish nation: small birds, inner organs, rotting fruit, fermented fish, reptiles — all these are happily scoffed in various corners of the planet. But here? Despite this country being a market-place of the world's kitchens it still sports a puritanical rash of taboos.

The means, however, by which Japanese cooking has recently been rendered accessible are pecuniary rather than sub-gastronomic. A stratum of Japanese eating places that are readily affordable has appeared in the past few years. Equally good news is the fact that these places mostly offer an unbowlerized repertoire since they rely on (again, mostly) a Japanese clientele. Put simply, there are now two and a half tiers of Japanese restaurant in London: (a) Expensive, wall-to-wall folklore; fetishistic exquisiteness in the presentation of food; the wife is not convinced geishas aren't *filles de joie* and reckons you've been a sashimi "massage with fancy food thrown in"; (b) Expensive, half-hearted folklore; the same food; domestic harmony. The third, the smallest tier, is the winsome one: these restaurants are canteen-like, are undecorated or have been decorated by a gang who suffer daltonism, are less expensive than the expensive ones, do not constitute a tourist board conspiracy, and consequently peddle a sort of authenticity that has nothing to do with kimono and ritual. They are the gastronomic embassies of Tokyo *now*. They may not serve *fugu* (blowfish), which, unless it is correctly gutted and de-veined, will kill you (several hundred deaths per annum in Japan), but they do serve dishes which have not been amended for our (alleged) tastes. These quasi-canteens are, roughly, the equivalents of tapas joints. They fulfil the same function. They're for drinking in as much as for eating at: the small portions of different dishes are, supposedly, secondary to the bevvies. The correct form, in Tokyo or Madrid, Osaka or Cadiz, is to fill up with sausages or whisky or sherry, then to head off elsewhere for a proper dinner.

Because there is not a profusion of proper restaurants within staggering distance, the London form is to elide the two sorts of eating house. Nantou in Marylebone, Ninjin in west Euston, and Ikkyu in Tottenham



ham Court Road are the leaders in this tier of London-Japanese restaurant or canteenery.

They are now joined by a fourth called Yoisho. This is just around the corner from Ikkyu, in Gooze Street, a street that still possesses a commercial mix of which we've probably seen the last: it's not just restaurants that are going to go to the wall because of the daily homogeneous rate revaluations — stationery shops and butchers and clothes shops will go that way, too. Only chain-owned establishments will keep going, because they are subsidized by, say, pizza houses in Burslem and Gateshead. Yoisho is not among the likely survivors — but then very few worthwhile London restaurants are. It's not too difficult to foresee a time when only those with Cabinet salaries and above will be able to afford to eat in this capital; mere MPs will have to attend to the more modest restaurants in their constituencies. If I were Mr Julian Critchley, I'd book myself a permanent table in Johnny

Gurkha's of Aldershot till the end of the millennium.

Yoisho is more akin to Ikkyu, its neighbour, than it is to the other places in its stratum. They do rarefied tidbits; Ikkyu and it go downhome — but home to where, no one knows. They appear to serve some form of mountain-peasant cooking. They both do — and Yoisho does it better — a beef and potato stew. Yoisho's is good to look at. It shows that Japanese cooking and its French avatar —

CORRECTION

ONE SIXTEEN

In last week's column I mistakenly stated that the restaurant On Sixteen, in Knightsbridge, which I reviewed favourably in September 1989 (six stars), had closed. This is not the case. It was closed only over the Christmas and New Year holiday and is now open for business as usual. I apologise to the chef/proprietor Ian McAndrew and to any readers who have been misled.

nouvelle cuisine — do not have to be set out by a flower arranger to achieve a pleasing appearance. This dish is strikingly good to taste and looks good because of that expectation — the stew is the colour of NHS "tortoiseshell" glasses, the potato is Sam Brown. The potato, too, is not any old potato but one that keeps its shape during cooking.

Yoisho also does an unusual dish called "mountain potato". The dish itself, though, is impressive if you enjoy slime. It comprises potato, raw salmon and raw slime. The last is some sort of seaweed. It's the texture rather than the taste that might be off-putting. On the other hand the name of another dish, "fried frog", is more likely to choke you than is the fry-up on the plate, which is none other than the dismal old French dish of frogs' legs. I've never previously eaten them in this country, and only once in France. The only reason that I can give for being friendlier to frogs than to other sources of meat is that other sources tend to taste better. The fish

here is excellent: the sashimi includes tuna, salmon, mackerel, cuttlefish, sole, prawn, octopus and marinated trout.

Offal-haters will hate the yakitori of chicken heart and beef tongue. Veggie will adore the deep-fried beancurd with ginger. The one sweet on offer was an ice-cream made of sump oil flavoured with vanilla. Memorable for the wrong reason, just as the place is memorable for the right one, £1.50.

Offal-haters will hate the yakitori of chicken heart and beef tongue.

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on.

Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises.

Always phone first. J.M.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN

Czech Club 74 West End Lane, London NW6 (01-585 5220)

★★★ High class steak and chip joint. The chips are offered in two widths and are very good indeed, as is the meat. The more ambitious daily specials are less appealing.

Friendly service, inexpensive, flowery as its name suggests. 250.

Grill St Quentin Yeoman's Row, Brompton Road, London SW3 (01-581 8377)

★★★ One of the largest restaurants in London and based, decoratively, on one of the largest in Paris, La Coupole. However it is not a brasserie, but also serves a complete à la carte menu with its too narrow limits being perfectly acceptable, but it seems to be an opportunity missed.

The clientele is relentlessly fashionable, the service is relentlessly inept. 222.

Café des Fleurs 280 West End Lane, London NW6 (01-585 5220)

★★★ High class steak and chip joint. The chips are offered in two widths and are very good indeed, as is the meat. The more ambitious daily specials are less appealing.

Friendly service, inexpensive, flowery as its name suggests. 250.

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The clientele is relentlessly fashionable, the service is relentlessly inept. 222.

SUSSEX

Lychgate 5a Church Street, Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex (0242 212193)

★★★★★ Small and homely restaurant in part of a Wealden house in a pretty village with weather-boarded buildings. Accomplished and well-judged cooking, amiable service. The menu is very under-stated — when it says lamb cassoulet you get just that, but done with a sense of robustness and a variety of interesting starters, delicious sweets. There's nothing very notable to drink. The prices are most reasonable. £35-£40.

Zamyski 85 Fleet Road, London NW3 (01-794 4792)

★★★★★ Downstairs is a wine bar with a puny wine list and rather European cooking. Upstairs is a formal, very decent Polish cooking, such as a pancake of apple with smoked salmon, outstanding latkes, coulibiac, and lightly cured sausages. £25.

DAUPHINE

27 Thurloe Street, London SW1 (01-589 6117)

★★★★★ Legendary Polish tea-room and restaurant that has been a home of aristocrats since the 1920s. The cooking is amiable, the prices are reasonable. Lamb with a tart of lamb's kidney and leeks, ravioli of crab, duckling, dumplings, dumplings with apricot. Good beer and fruit spirits. £25.

LOWCROFT

238-246 King Street, London, W1 (01-741 3225)

★★★★★ A restaurant with a bit like an anonymous 1960s hotel in Lodz. The clientele is largely composed of Polish families. They are served by matronly ladies in "authentic" costume. The food is copious — tripe, stuffed cabbage, cured sausages, potato dumplings, sweet pancakes. There are numerous flavoured vodkas to choose from and Tatra beer. £22.

STEAK AND CHIPS

Garden Restaurant 567-580 King Street, London, W1 (01-741 3225)

★★★★★ A restaurant with a bit like an anonymous 1960s hotel in Lodz. The clientele is largely composed of Polish families. They are served by matronly ladies in "authentic" costume. The food is copious — tripe, stuffed cabbage, cured sausages, potato dumplings, sweet pancakes. There are numerous flavoured vodkas to choose from and Tatra beer. £22.

Alexander House Fan Pier, Turner's Hill, West Sussex (0342 714914)

★★★★★ Rather magnificently appointed "country house" hotel with good paintings and fine gewgaws. Some of the cooking is commonplace luxury; some of it is inventive and in some cases delicious. The restaurant's omelettes with prawns, delicious venison with fruits. Indifferent wines. £20.

CAFE SOCIETY

Re-painting the pillars

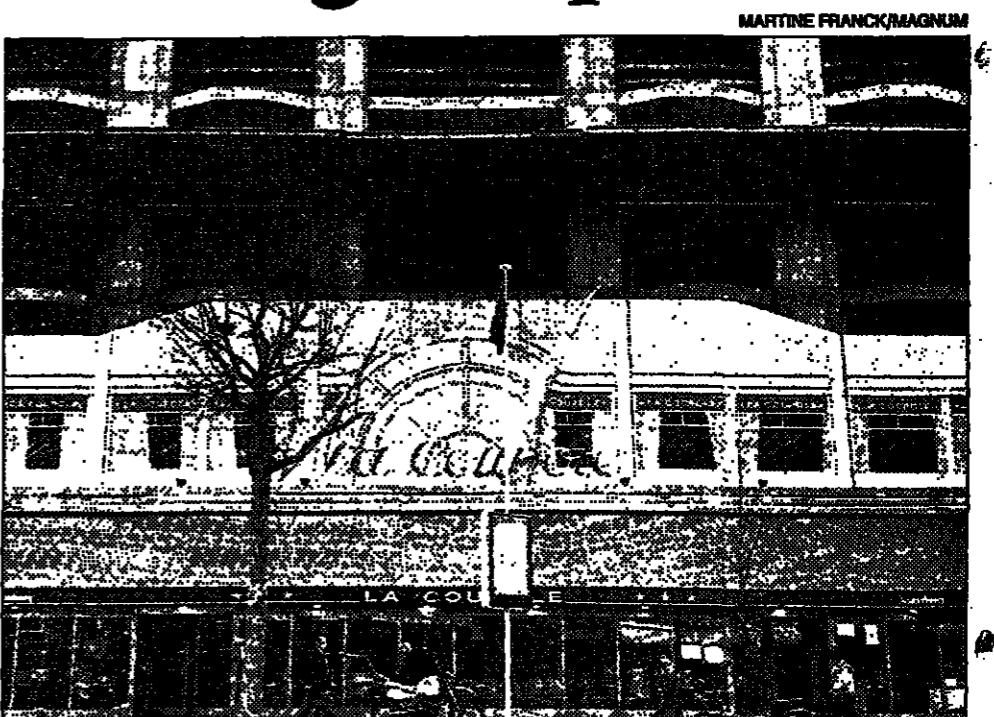
La Coupole, the artists' favourite watering hole in the Twenties, has a New Look — or has it?

People go to La Coupole in Paris because it is their habit to do so, because it contrives to be all things to all men and women (and children), because it is a comfortable club of which you don't have to be a member, because it's, well, there, and open almost every hour of every day of the year.

You can stroll through its vast salon any time, just to see if there's anyone around who you know. If there isn't, you can sit on the terrace with a paper and a Ricard or a *demi-pression* and wait for someone to show. You can hide in the American Bar and, sipping a Twenties cocktail, brood about the meaning of it all. You can order, from the smelling *banc d'huitres* at the other end of the terrace, a consoling dish of oysters. Or you can dine *en tête à tête* and be sure that your sweet nothings, which in some "intimate" joint would be as private as a flight call at Heathrow, will go unheard. And if that works out, you can go below deck and dance, if not till dawn, at least into the small hours.

Like all great works of man, the Coupole has achieved a kind of universality. But before there was the Coupole there was Montparnasse, a *quartier* which was, as someone remarked, *sans histoire*, *sans passé ni souvenirs*. To the artists of the Twenties, disillusioned with a Montparnasse that had become — partly because of their presence — populous, sophisticated, and spoilt, Montparnasse, bourgeois, provincial, was a blank page, a bare canvas.

So the likes of Derain, Van Dongen, Modigliani and Picasso moved in. Word spread abroad of this place where a fellow could live and paint as he pleased, and Chagall, Kupka and Zadkine disembarked at the Gare Montparnasse. Their presence, and a favourable exchange rate, lured Hemingway, Dos Pas-



In all its former glory: the new owner claims to have restored, rather than changed La Coupole, sash, Faulkner, e. e. cummings, on the evening of December 20, 1927, Messrs Fraux and Lafon invited a bunch of the locals — among them Foujita, Vlaminck, Cocteau, Blaise Cendrars, Derain, Kiki the model and Man Ray, that week's lover, Pascin, Aragon — to the inauguration of their new venture, La Coupole, conveniently situated just down the Boulevard Montparnasse from the Métro Vavin. (Quite a few of the then little-known free-lancers were only too happy to accept commissions from their hosts to paint canvases to the size of the 32 pillars of the establishment: you can see them there today, an extraordinary evocation — from cubism to *l'art nègre* — of an extraordinary epoch).

At the heart of *les années folles*, the Coupole seemed to be a folly. Here in one building was a vast cafe with terrace, an American bar (the latest chic), *un dancing*, a great salon with its multitude of pillars, a swank restaurant — *La Pergola* — open to the sky, and on top of that a *terrasse*, thoughtfully provided for *les amateurs de bouteilles*. And the whole kit and caboodle was open day and night, winter and summer.

Now you can see (and taste) the result. Shock! What is this? The old Coupole gone — like everything else — *green*? Those famous 32 pillars, once a resplendent Bordeaux colour, now gleam in a shade somewhere between jade and emerald, shot through, what's more, with shards of gold. But wait. This is, they claim, the way the

Coupole looked on that historic night in 1927. That was what they found when they cleaned off the *nouveau bordeaux*!

The 32 original canvases are there, cleaned of the patina bestowed by the smoke from several million Gaulloises.

The tables retain their maze-like formation — though they are covered now in snowy cloth instead of raffish paper.

In the bar, once an enclave apart, you can order a White Lady, Blue Angel or a Black Russian. It is now open to the great salon, at the other end of which the *banc d'huitres* has been redecorated in Thirties style to conform, and enlarged to become the biggest in Paris.

The rest of the food in the old Coupole was never anything to send a postcard home about, and the new menu suggests that the cuisine, and the prices, have gone up-market. Some of the traditional Coupole dishes have been retained: what the place has always fondly regarded as a chutney, with its range of chutneys, the *steak tartare*, the *caisse*, the *Grand Marnier*, the *omelette Norvégienne* (Baked Alaska) and *Hot Fudge*, a winning confection of vanilla ice-cream with hot chocolate sauce and grilled almonds.

Charles Hennessy

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لأجل من الأصل

BOOKS



A voice raised to fever pitch

"I thought that everyone lived this way, in the grey chill of impending violence," writes Norma Deloris Egstrom, describing the early years of physical and mental persecution inflicted upon her by a tyrant of a stepmother. Norma Deloris became known worldwide as Peggy Lee, and her autobiography covers 50 years as singer, composer and, at one time, actress.

Born in 1920, and growing up in the North American Midwest, she had a childhood gashed enough for a Grimms' fairy tale, but she documents the beatings she suffered in such a detached way that they could have happened to somebody else.

It is significant that she never dared tell anyone: not even her father, whom she "tried to hide everything from... he was so troubled". As a teenager she decided that she wanted a singing career, and jumped at an early opportunity to work on local radio stations. Her work in Los Angeles and Chicago led to a major career break in 1941 with the Benny Goodman Orchestra, whose seven-day working week she describes as being like those little Swiss figures in a cuckoo clock.

She portrays vividly her excitement at being with the orchestra and meeting the great artists of the day, including Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and the young Frank Sinatra. She also met at this time her first husband, David Barbour, a guitarist with the orchestra, whom she married in 1943.

She seems to have been surrounded by people who recognized her innate talent and contributed to her artistic development. One of these in particular was her favourite lyricist, Johnny Mercer, who became her mentor at the outset of her career at Capitol records. "When I was working on 'I Don't Know Enough About You'

There is little as seductive as the promise to overthrow received opinion. And Larry Wolff's assault, with his confidently assertive subtitle, on the established notions of *fin-de-siècle Vienna* promises no less. The soundtrack of his delicately revisionist historical reconstruction of Vienna in the 1890s – Broch's "gay apocalypse" – is not the elegant clatter of coffee cups and sweetly elegiac strains of swirling waltzes in cultured salons, but the ominously orchestrated roar of the crowd, baying at the spectacle of child battery and murder.

But in truth, the noise emanating most distinctly from *Postcards from the End of the World* is the sound of bets being hedged. For Mr Wolff is an academic, and brings to his work all the respectable hesitancy and meticulous caution of his profession. The seduction the reader is promised turns out to be little more than a re-arrangement of the bed-clothes.

For us, 90 years on, Vienna in 1899 is the year of the publication of Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*, with its exposition of the Oedipus complex; but at the time, while Freud anxiously scanned the newspapers for the expected outraged reception of his views, they contained reports of family hostility of a far more concrete kind, reports which, intriguingly, went

Chris Krake
MISS PEGGY LEE
An Autobiography
By Peggy Lee
Bloomsbury, £14.95

he made some wonderfully constructive comments. He advised me to tear it all apart and do it over again. It really was fun reconstructing it, and it was a vast improvement. That was probably one of my best instructions on construction – by a master.

The writing partnership with her husband, David, culminated in the tremendously successful recording of "Manana". However, Barbour's alcoholism was making her married life increasingly unstable, and after a series of upheavals they divorced in 1951 – the same year that her father died.

Paradoxically, this double blow

marked the start of what she considered to be a very creative time. Working hard to keep herself from fretting about David, she was also starting to take charge of her professional life. Her innovative recording of the Rogers/Hart composition "Lover" resulted from her ignoring Richard Rogers's strict rules about how his songs were to be interpreted – something she "must have forgotten".

This led eventually to her leaving Capitol Records and signing with Decca for a five-year period. Not only was her recording career gaining momentum, but her composing abilities came to light with arrangements for "Tom Thumb", "Johnny Guitar", and Walt Disney's "Lady and the Tramp", co-scored with Sonny Burke. This in turn led to a role in the film *Pete Kelly's Blues*, a part she felt so strongly about that she declared she would play to play it.

The character of Rose, an aspiring singer, proved she had considerable acting ability, and she was nominated for an Oscar as best supporting actress.

Although she does not reveal her

own feelings about her cinematic success, she is not so reticent about her other work. But although she peppers the narrative with glamorous names such as James Dean and Marlene Dietrich, these don't succeed in lifting the story from anything other than chronicle of events. The book jumps to 1958, and her famous recording of Little Willie John's "Fever" with her own special lyrics. Then the memoir



Name dropper: the remarkable Peggy Lee today, and on three of the EP sleeves charting her musical progress

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goes straight into recollections of the "electrifying" Basin Street East nightclub season in New York. At this point the number of celebrities who get a name check really begins to grate.

A visit to London and Monaco in the early Sixties follows, with

mentions of the wardrobe and entourage plus celebrity passengers aboard the S.S. United States, bound for Europe. But it adds up to no more than a diary of events – unfortunately, though, minus specific dates – of a first trip abroad, and there is no mention of the musical prowess (if any) of her performances.

A bout of illness contracted in France, leading to pneumonia and pleurisy, requires months of recovery once she returns home. In her later years one cannot help being moved by her courage in coping with diabetes, being on a respirator, and having a serious heart condition.

When told by doctors to retire, she replied: "Retire and wait for what?" Miss Lee's determination to continue performing, and writing, is openly stated at the end of the book. I just wish she had been able to show the same directness in expressing her real feelings about the rest of the extraordinary story.

Time for a realization: our most distinguished veteran SF author is not just hard-core, but hard-sell. The concepts are poetry, but the accents are now those of a time-share brochure, with a colloquial inevitability that amounts to cliché. So I welcome with rapture this new collection of brief pieces – in small doses, the banalities of expression do not obtrude.

There's a Lord Dunsany-like table-turning of events in such stories as "On Golden Seas", in which President Kennedy is a woman, and they're trying to extract precious metal from seawater. But the real delight is the novella, "The Road to the Sea", a lyrical account of the way civilization splits into two cultures, the one rural and at peace, the other Wellsian-scientific. It's a theme that has the ability to astonish totally. For, if Mr Clarke now writes like a hack, what he's hacking out is sheer wonder. He mines awe.

• *Tangents* by Greg Bear (Gollancz, £12.95). That the short story is lustily alive and well and living in SF has been noted by me before. Here, one of the foremost epic-moudlers scales down his narratives, but does not diminish impact. "Blood Music" is a stab in the dark created by his novel – about an infection that orchestrates humanity into one anonymous whole – while "Dead Run" is a chilling SF-fantasy about the way people have corrupted even Hell. One to raise skyscraper hackles.

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• *Guard! Guard!*, by Terry Pratchett (Gollancz, £12.95). Yet another Pratchett job from the one-man SF-comedy industry, this time an account of the search, by the Humphrey Bogartian Sergeant Vimes, for whatever it is that's turning Discworld into a high-risk world where citizens are being converted into charcoal biscuits.

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Less Clarke is more

SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

TALES FROM PLANET EARTH

By Arthur C. Clarke

Century-Legend, £12.95

Time for a realization: our most distinguished veteran SF author is not just hard-core, but hard-sell. The concepts are poetry, but the accents are now those of a time-share brochure, with a colloquial inevitability that amounts to cliché. So I welcome with rapture this new collection of brief pieces – in small doses, the banalities of expression do not obtrude.

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Front row seats for the theatre of violence

Nigella Lawson

POSTCARDS FROM THE END OF THE WORLD
An Investigation into the Mind of Fin-de-Siècle Vienna
By Larry Wolff
Collins, £15

cases and engineered the response to them.

The case of Hedwig Kepplinger, who killed her daughter then herself in October 1899, would never have captured the public imagination as it did, Wolff argues, if it weren't for the fact that in the collective memory of the Viennese lay the remembrance of the suicide and murder, 10 years earlier, of Crown Prince Rudolf, the Emperor Franz Joseph's only son, and his lover in the woods at Mayerling.

There was already the precedent for suicide and murder and its romanticization, and in the Kepplinger case the newspapers responded accordingly. Felix Döf

mann (a minor and superannuated lyric poet) who covered the case for the *Neue Freie Presse*, the mouthpiece and font of bourgeois culture, draped his subject in artifical fictionalization.

Art could provide no easy prototype for the next cases, in which parents stood accused of beating their children to death. But it was art that came to the rescue and assimilated these notionally unprecedented cases into the cultural consensus.

The *Gefühlskultur* of fin-de-siècle Vienna, its elevation of emotional and psycho-sensual sensibilities, coloured accounts of these cases, with their heady mix of *Sensationslust* and sentimentalism.

But Vienna, most of all, as Wolff presents it, was a city of the theatre. He quotes Broch's description of Vienna's "dominating theatre culture" in which "the entire texture of life (was) interwoven with that of the theatre". Wolff corroborates this with the example of Freud's citing Sophoclean drama to promulgate his revolutionary theories, and with the dramatic treat-

ment of these cases of child abuse.

But if the assembled crowds responded to the trials as if to plays in the theatre, crying "bravo" at heightened moments in the cases, and if their chroniclers employed the same currency, it must be said that all court cases are inherently dramatic.

The theatre of the court is explicable in the Viennese aesthetic, but it is not peculiar to it. Eleven years earlier, in this country, the Jack the Ripper crimes, although never brought to trial, received just the same dramatic treatment in the popular press, and Dickens both used and railled against the crude theatricality that murder cases aroused.

A sturdy but elegant scholariness, together with a *Sensationslust* no less pronounced in our own age, makes this book fascinating reading. And true to his premise, Wolff brings to his account of child abuse in fin-de-siècle Vienna a considerable body of information about the implosion in the liberal bourgeoisie culture, the rise of antisemitism and the disintegration of the Habsburg empire.

But although he marshals this information fastidiously, the whole emerges as less than the sum of its parts. As Edith Wharton once remarked of her compatriot, Henry James, "he chews more than he can bite off".

Oh come, all ye dab faithful

THEATRE

Hamish Lennox

RACING DEMON

By David Hare
Faber, £4.99

HID



Hess Is Dead

By Howard Brenton
Nick Hern Books, £4.50

SINGER

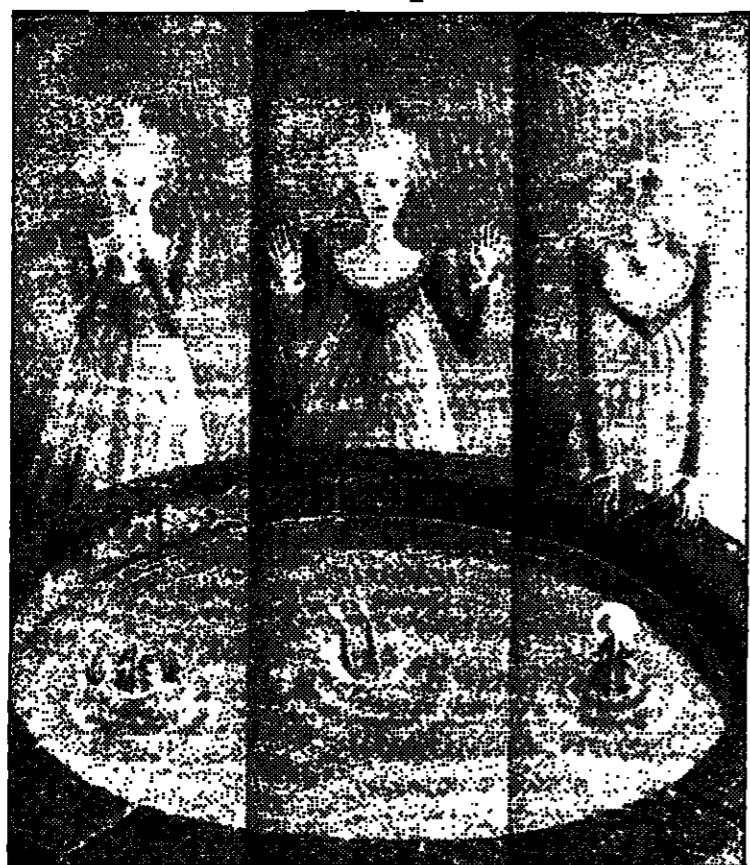
By Peter Flannery
Nick Hern Books, £4.50

HEARTLANDERS

By Stephen Bill, Anne Devlin,
and David Edgar
Nick Hern Books, £4.50

broken heart because of you." Singer: "So you have no witness?" Jewish humour, like Irish, was born in purgatory.

Heartlanders is a collaborative work, written for the Birmingham Rep to celebrate that city's centenary. It's hard enough to create a "community play" for a place as small and coherent as Dorchester (which David Edgar has done); the amorphous sprawl of Birmingham (as Harold Pinter in the role). When Singer throws a party to celebrate his belated British citizenship, an old Irishwoman bursts into the throng of hired nobs to berate her sometime landlord, who protests: "What? Evict an old lady? Me?" Mrs Daley: "My husband died of a heart attack, but he was a good man." The boy's death, his son's supposed nemesis, Reuben, is a "mother"



Dream kingdom: high sophistication in the illustration of a simple tale

The frog who would be king

Making picture books out of the more numinous folk tales is a touchy business. How to illustrate those enigmatic transitions, those implausible events? Literal representation cannot cope over the full length of a picture book; fantasy pictures usually kill the story.

Binette Schroeder and Naomi Lewis's *Frog Prince* shows that there is a way. Both illustrator and translator need to be named here, because, although the pictures were originally done for the German text from Grimm, Miss Lewis has reshaped the telling so that it gains points for the English reader. None of the strange narrative has been sacrificed, but the story is allowed to grow naturally with the turning pages — not least at those awkward moments when verse takes over, as when the frog comes knocking at the castle door, or when the iron bands fall from Faithful Henry's bison.

This admirable text shows how sensitive Naomi Lewis is to the needs of Binette Schroeder's illustrations. For from the cover

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

THE FROG PRINCE, OR IRON HENRY
By Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm
Translated by Naomi Lewis
Illustrated by Binette Schroeder
North-South Books, £7.50

inwards we are in Marchen-land — pinnacled castles and walled terraces subsisting ethereally in a dream kingdom. At the same time, though, the mundane details of frogs and carriages and the amazing cinematic transformation of frog to prince as he is hurled against the wall, bring a conviction of reality. Binette Schroeder seems to have conceived this landscape and this train of pictures in a single vision, and despite the high sophistication of her art — subtly air-brushed back-cloths, near-surrealist staging — her pictures have the simple spontaneity of the tale itself.


Tally ho: typical salute to hunting and the West Country, by John Leech

Of 'osses and men

The West Country has done Durham proud. The Surtees Society of Frome in Somerset has already issued in facsimile the first editions of the nine novels of the squire of Hamsterley. Added to each original is an introduction by an Eminent Venetian. This is the tenth volume; in it is an introduction by Lord Denham and a list of 1,000 pre-publication subscribers. *Analysis of the Hunting Field* was first published in 1846, as a "slight souvenir" of the exceptional hunting season of 1845-46. It is not that sight. It has 326 pages in 21 chapters, six "highly coloured plates", and 43 illustrations on wood. The last are clear, charming, witty.

Surtees was well served by his illustrators; pre-eminently, when his collaboration was eventually secured, by Leech. "Ah, my lord, nothing but a party as knows 'osses could have drawn them there 'unters," remarked a huntsman taken by his noble Master to an exhibition of Leech's work. He could not have expressed it better if Surtees had invented him. The plates in this volume are by one of the Henry Alken's whose delineations adorn a thousand walls in Leicestershire — and (page 166) Harry Piggin's. Compared with Leech's, Alken's characters, both human and equine, are less individual, the background more prettily conventional. Nevertheless, his six plates are attractive and have a sense of excitement. They add much to the pleasure of the text.

The title is misleading: this is not an arid tabulation of runs, miles and kills, or of anything else. On the contrary, the chapters are devoted to a discursive and entertaining treatment of 13 hunting characters: the Master, the Huntsman and so on. The work therefore lacks even the semblance of a plot. Does it matter? Barely. "The plot is an inadequate excuse on which Surtees strings characters". Molly Keane's comment on *Plain or Rings* could be justly applied to all the novels; and although *Analysis* precedes the great works, it contains what we most love in Surtees.

There is his vitality: "the sheer undisguised enjoyment of everything that comes along" (Enoch

Jeffrey Abbott

ANALYSIS OF THE HUNTING FIELD
By R. S. Surtees
R. S. Surtees Society, Tockers Cottage, Nunney, Frome, Somerset, £16.95

Powell). Aphorism: "Men talk of their thousands from whom it is easier to extract an eye tooth than a sovereign." Anecdote: "The Crane who hunts the Iron Duke's hounds during the Peninsular War (warfare preclude 'unting' Never) one day follows them almost into the enemy camp; the huntsman with the cork leg who becomes so drunk that he cannot remember where he left his leg the night before. The phraseology: "Old 'ard, you 'air-dresser on the chestnut 'oss." "Hairdresser, Sir? I am an officer in the 91st Regiment." Then, you hossifer in the 91st Regiment wot looks like a 'air-dresser, 'old 'ard." Feasting: the heroic ingestion of Surtees's men puts to shame our feeble capacities — "the prime home-fed beef, the dark-gravied mutton, the clean-fed pork, the plump white chicken, the beautiful ham, the mealy potato, the scarlet beet..." The ability to hit a character with a name and a phrase or two: Sir Rasper Smashgate, "who rides 14 stone with the nerve of a Roman gladiator." (Fear not, gentle reader: Henrietta naih him: "He said as he changed from his back to his hunter, 'By Jove, why shouldn't I marry her?'")

Reach me my Handley Cross again,
My run, where never danger lurks, is
With Jorrocks and his deathless train —
Pigg, Binjim, and Araxerxes.
(Rudyard Kipling, entering into the spirit of things.)

Deathless indeed, and rich is Surtees's world, always fresh: "That opaque distance becomes transparently clear. An England forever." This mightily handsome book has its place in that world. So tally-ho, Surtermites all! For'd away on our tenth run. West Country, we salute you.

Educating Rita and the rest

Victoria Glendinning on an unswervingly loyal biography of Emily Davies, founder of Girton, who could have done with such vigorous support in her lifetime

EMILY DAVIES AND THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN
By Daphne Bennett
André Deutsch, £15.95

was very like that used today to oppose the ordination of women, and had its roots in masculine fear.

Emily's first college was a discreet distance away from Cambridge, in Hitchin. Public opinion, and most Cambridge dons, were so vociferously against her that for a terrible moment it seemed there would be no students. In the event, she opened with five hopeful young women. One thing she stood out for was that her girls must take the same examinations as the undergraduates; to accept separate examinations, and lower standards, would ruin the whole scheme. She was jealous and scornful of Miss Clough, who first established Newnham as a hostel for the popular "ladies' lectures", and who lured away some of Emily's own supporters among the dons by her lesser demands.

The friend was Elizabeth Garrett. Emily Davies was lucky enough to meet, by chance, a group of women who were not afraid to voice the revolutionary thoughts that she had kept to herself. Emily cut her teeth in public life by supporting Eliza in her struggle to become the first woman to qualify as a doctor in England. Emily Davies soon found her own voice. It was clear and caustic. Not everyone liked it, even when they agreed with her views. The movement for the higher education of women took root in the 1860s. The idea was greeted in most circles with mindless hilarity or pious, pompous distaste. Much of the cant

was aimed to get her girls into Cambridge geographically as well as academically. Emily raised money to buy a windswept site at Girton, three miles outside.

Her architect was Alfred Waterhouse; and she was adamant that every student should have her own bedroom and sitting-room.

This was an extravagant use of space, but she stuck to her guns.

In 1873, they moved in: the house was unfinishing, freezing cold, ill-equipped. The food was frightful, the future gardens a wasteland.

Oxford, London, and the provincial colleges were all quicker to give

full university membership to women than was Cambridge. It's impossible to say whether women would have taken more or less time to become accepted there without Emily's high-profile campaigning. It could hardly have taken longer. For years, the women students sat for the Tripos as a concession, not as of right. The last fight was for them to be given degrees. From 1882 women students were issued with certificates, stating the class they had obtained in the Tripos. As Emily always feared, a lesser privilege only blocked the way to a greater one. Incredibly, it was 1947 before Cambridge gave degrees to women.

Emily was creating something tremendous at Girton, but there is an inevitable subtext of pettiness, tiffs, and misunderstandings between Emily and her inexperienced staff, between Emily and her advisers and supporters, between Emily and the opposition. Few modern biographers have been so unquestioningly loyal to every action and motive of her subject as is Daphne Bennett. Emily was a woman of iron will and determination, but she was not easy to work with, and she was not always right. No one is. But Daphne Bennett is on her side, without reservation. Emily could have done with such a champion in her lifetime.

She had one, but she lost him. Emily's very first success had been to get girls admitted to the Local Examinations (the precursor of the school certificate). The secretary to the London board was a charming and clever man called Henry Tomkinson, who was also managing director of Sun Insurance. He became Emily's chief ally and supporter in the Girton enterprise. She consulted him on everything, and his practical experience of administration was invaluable. Daphne Bennett, scouring Emily's papers, has found in her relations with Tomkinson the only evidence of a romance in her life.

It was an abortive romance, and the evidence is negative. The friendship, which became ever closer, suddenly ceased in 1875 — or at least, after that date there is no surviving correspondence or documented contact. Bennett thinks that Tomkinson proposed marriage, and was turned down. A more painful interpretation, which she does not consider, is that it was the other way round. Emily was 45, and had just retired from being Mistress of Girton. Maybe it was she who suggested marriage to her old friend, and maybe he declined. No one will ever know.



'Much of the cant was like that used today to oppose the ordination of women, and had its roots in masculine fear.'

PAPERBACKS
Strangled by string of words
By Anne Oakley
Flamingo, £6.99

the star-filled sky". But it is no joke. As is usually the case, imprecision of thought is at the root of the badness of the writing.

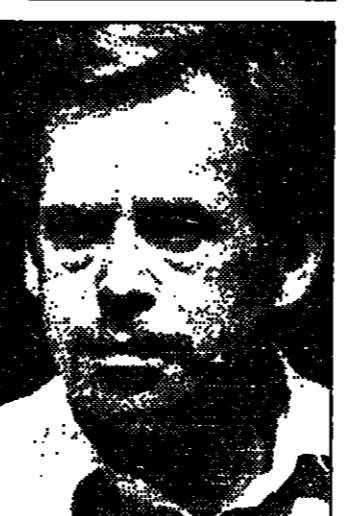
"She'd been married to him for 12 years and lying beside him most of that time," Ann Oakley informs us of her heroine, Charity, on page one. It comes as no surprise to learn later that she had no time to do more than "note" the

Islands in a pattern
By Mary McCarthy
Penguin, £4.99

erately ironic opening episode, which describes her (first) adultery and divorce as if they were steps in a familiar dance. She drifts from there into meaningless employment in "Rogue's Gallery" with the roguish gallery owner Mr Sheer, a man who makes a virtual art form of incorrigibility, but who is, for all that, touched with a certain dignity.

Further causal encounters ensue. "The Man in the Brooks Brothers Shirt", an account of a seduction on a transcontinental Pullman, sparked a degree of scandalisation when it first appeared in *Parisian Review*. Margaret's partially censored reckoning in "Ghostly Father, I Confess" is equally without benefit of clergy, or even faith, but there is courage in even the shakiest

Old truths will out
Mark Almond



VACLAV HAVEL, LIVING IN TRUTH
Edited by Jan Valdštejn
Faber, £4.99

MY FIRST LOVE
By Ivan Klíma
Translated by Ewald Osers
Penguin, £4.99

(and the 16 accompanying "texts for Havel" by other dissidents and foreign admirers). Alongside the theme of unwavering personal integrity as the peaceful weapon of the nonconformist opponent of totalitarianism there is a second,

less uplifting theme: the corrosion of morality and personal identity through living under a regime where no one, from the general secretary downwards, believes the brilliant future will ever dawn, and where everyone has a fiddle for which they will betray everyone else. Corruption, dishonesty, time-serving and conformity form the backdrop to Havel's own honesty and truthfulness. Did the social vices fostered by Communism disappear overnight two months ago?

Communism did not just corrupt those living under it. Havel's essays come from the later 1970s and early 1980s, the golden age of the "peace movement". A nonconformist by nature, Havel's comments on the West will not please rigid conservatives, but it is difficult to suppress one's own fury — even though he himself writes with patience — when one reads about the western progressives who explained to Czech dissidents that the Gulag Archipelago was "a tax paid for the ideals of socialism" — like all the best taxes needless to say, paid by others. Once *glasnost* set in in the Soviet Union and it was no longer easy to live the lie that Brezhnev was preferable to Reagan, and therefore that Havel and friends should devote their energies to defending civil liberties in Thatcher's Britain rather than Jakes's Prague, the peace movement left the dissidents to get on with their struggle unhindered. Now, as they have succeeded, their western "friends" will no doubt rush forward to persuade them to restore the old order.

Klíma's novels and the poignant short stories issued by Penguin are a marvellous antidote to most political literature in modern Britain, as well as a model of how to demolish a regime with a flick of the pen but without mud-slinging, indeed with scarcely a hint of its existence. Instead of a state-supported litany of hate against Thatcher's Britain, Klíma writes about the eternally interesting themes of love, briefly required, disappointed, and both. Klíma conveys the tragedy of the banal. Perhaps.

THE COMPANY SHE KEEPS
By Mary McCarthy
Penguin, £6.99

THE WOMAN WHO WAS
By Freda Flintoff
Penguin, £6.99

TRESPASS
By Paul Theroux
Penguin, £6.99

Fun for Some

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Watching *Campion*, which returned to BBC 1 last night at the start of a second series, is like observing some arcane English ritual such as swan-upping or Morris-dancing, in which the participants always appear to be having much more fun than the onlookers.

The rules of this particular engagement seem to be that you assemble large numbers of experienced character actors against expensive period country-house backdrops which they reach in vintage motor cars. Once in place, the character actors give performances of clenched adequacy while pretending to care about the outcome of some incomprehensible murder plot involving cards, boudoirs and foreigners – usually in reverse order of criminality.

Never mind the writing, feel the period charm. Serials like this should not be churched out by the BBC drama department just to fill lethargic Friday schedules; they should be rented out to Japanese tourists in search of old England. The men talk as if they had batar pipes surgically attached to their front teeth, while their womenfolk walk as if they still have horses between their thighs.

Characters bear such names as Harriet Huntingforst without apparent surprise. Others wear starched collars and suggest that the dialogue has also been written on them by quill pen, while the storyline is a ritual mix of snobbery with violence, involving on this occasion the precise ownership of a mythical Dalmatian state which seems possessed of oil, whereas I had imagined it exporting only dogs.

Hovering discreetly on the dangerous borderlines of self-parody, Jill Hyem's opening episode was steeped in a combination of arch whimsy and Lord Peter Wimsey, retrieved only by Brian Glover's wonderfully jaundiced performance as Campion's door assistant, Lagg. He is a man who patiently wishes to move on not just to another mystery but to another series, preferably one in which the action is a little more brisk.

Here it seemed not so much slow as stopped, and only a superlatively cherubic appearance by Richard Pearson, and an introductory scene with Iain Cuthbertson's master villain, suggested that part two next week might conceivably be worth a look.

Over on BBC 2, the comedy series *Colin's Sandwich* also came back last night for a second season. Like all other comedy shows on television, it seems, this stars Mel Smith, but appearing here as a dour British Rail employee with a passion for writing fiction.

Given to Walter Mittyish day-dreams of best-sellerdom, and already choosing his records for *Desert Island Discs*, Smith plays him with a lugubrious charm, and the writers (Paul Smith and Terry Kyan) have found a nice line in depressive interior monologues for him to voice-over. Plots and supporting characters, however, are not their strongest suit.

RADIO

Martin Cropper

There seems little point in tuning into a comedy show with the rib-nudging title of *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* (Radio 1) unless one can count on being at least mildly provoked at least once.

This third series has been frenetically puffed as the *ne plus ultra* of bad taste, the show that would turn your average vicar green, and so on. Recorded in the presence of a sycophantic and "live" audience, it goes out fairly late on Saturday evenings and is repeated on Fridays, cut in half on Fridays, cut in half on Fridays.

The material that never makes the airwaves may well, for all I know, live up to its billing, the stuff that gets broadcast is, to borrow Bill Bryson's judicious simile, as thick as pig drizzle – a farago of brain-dead prattle. The opening programme artlessly insulted the likes of Linda McCartney and Leon Brittan, and purported to involve Ian Paisley and Jimmy Savile in a kind of sexual lottery; there were contraceptive jokes and cocaine jokes; there were lists of useless Christmas presents (daring) and queasy injections of "social comment" 2 a Ben Elton.

This last element gives the game away: the show's fecklessness has less to do with Auntie's blue pencil than with the irremediable derivativeness of the performers' tastes and hence ambitions. Marinated in a decade's worth of "alternative" comedy – which has now, pace the limitations of obscenity, become mainstream – they are blinkered to the possibilities of disappointing their audience by doing something intelligent, which would at least be something different. One was forcibly reminded of sitting granite-faced over the unlaughed television show *O.T.T.* and taking bets on exactly when the Tupperware was going to be produced.

After this, the funeral whimsy of *King Cutler* (Radio 3, Thursday) in which Ivor Cutler and Phyllis King stretch minimalism beyond its breaking point, is refreshing to a degree.

Jeremy Kingston

The Pelican
Gate Theatre

Of the four chamber plays Strindberg wrote quickly in 1907 this was the one he chose to open his long-planned *Intimate Theatre*, thereby nearly wrecking the brave enterprise at birth. It is hard to see what style of direction could possibly hold together its lumpy mixture of melodrama and accidental comedy. Mark Brickman, the co-directors, plump for a naturalistic approach that ascends steeply into a sort of heightened realism when the dialogue points that way, but then leaves the actors marooned on high when the writing collapses beneath them.

The ironic title refers to the legend that this bird feeds its young with its own blood. The play's unnatural Mother has destroyed her children's health by starving them of proper food and keeping the fires until she drinks their cream in her coffee while feeding them on burnt grouse and porridge. Considered rationally, which naturalism invites, it is hard to see how this state of affairs has continued for so long: her son is old enough to be a law student, her daughter is just married and their father only recently dead.

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CONCERTS

Stephen Pettitt

PLG Young Artists
Purcell Room

If the Park Lane Group Young Artists and Twentieth Century Music series is as much about choice of repertoire as the quality of the performers, certain players labour under huge disadvantages. What music is there of any real stature, for instance, for clarinet quartet? Precious little, so one is tempted to ask why the excellent individuals of the Thurston Quartet should have chosen to represent their group. Yet undeniably they play well together, and here they were right to garnish inconsequen-

But Strindberg wants her to be a witch-mother, identifying the impulse with his usual bizarre directness in one of the looser lines allotted to the son: "You know why I'm so wretched? I was never breast-fed."

Mother lusts after her venal son-in-law, letters from the grave reveal terrible truths; the son sets the house on fire and he and his sister perish happily in the flames, smelling at last the sweet savour of the burning pantry.

There is not much to be done with this except play it as tempestuous melodrama or set it to music. The closing scene, where brother expires in his sister's arms, is already halfway to opera, and is played by Ian Jeffs and Emma Hewitt with a languorous sweetness that, against all odds, holds absurdity at bay.

From the start the lean and hungry-looking Jeffs establishes a feverish note that makes his playing the most convincing.

Madeline Blakeway's Mother, severely let down by the author's refusal to motivate her, takes the sleep-walking image far too seriously, so that beating her arms against the wall she resembles a peacock in very slow motion.

As so often in this theatre the set design (Helena Brown) is first rate,

and with a fine tiled stove in the corner and so many bunches of peacock feathers that it is no wonder

disaster struck the family down.

The evening admittedly opens

grimly, with David Warrilow's

scarred, bony Krapp spooling through his old memories, his voice rising from a throaty purr to a contemptuous yelp as he scans the hopes and dreams recorded on his tapes.

It is a fine, careful performance of one of Beckett's more elegant arguments for sto-

icalism. But though longer, it seems a curtain-raiser for *Catastrophe*.

This time Warrilow, in grey-brown fatigues, spends the evening shivering on a box, while he is prepared for exhibition by the unloved duo played by Tom Knight and Christina Paul: he a sneering apparatchik swathed in fur, she his white-coated lab assistant. They lower his head and Clark of whitening it. They lift his clasped hands to the rough region of his heart. Then they bare his chest and legs, completing their portrait of guilt, atonement and supplication.

Beckett tells us nothing about place, time or circumstances. Indeed, the metaphor he has concocted could presumably apply to any situation where some studiously oppresses and others silently suffer. But since Knight talks of hurrying to a "caucus" – and

Catastrophe is dedicated to Havel

– the political significance is not just unmissable but important to an extent it is in no other Beckett play. What is more, he has never written about that or anything else more hopefully.

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David Andrew Jones's tenacious

but subtle approach to Tippett's

enormous, conspicuously linear

Third Sonata and his positively

heroic conquering of another Roxburgh work, the vastly testing *Six*

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RECORDS



Sense of proportion: Temstedt conducts the London Philharmonic

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Wagner: *Tristan und Isolde* Vickers, Nilsson/Böhm/Philharmonia Mundi (MPS 32553/55) (three CDs) 1973 recording at the Orange amphitheatre, dominated by Vickers's expressive power and by the immenseness and immediacy of Nilsson, working together with Böhm against the wind and the audience.

Gibbons: *Cries and Fancies* Fretwork (Virgin VC 7 90845 2) The tedious *Cries of London* are here, but vastly outweighed by fantasies which the viols of Fretwork weigh out with gravity, a rich, wheezing ensemble sound, and a big, physical relish of the faster music.

Hoist: *The Planets*, *Ballet from The Perfect Fool* RLPO/Mackerras (Virgin VC 7 90825 2) The old warhorse rears up with its heraldry bold and colourful: this is a vigorously frank and straightforward performance, outdoing many of the glossier, striving names.

Wagner: *Das Rheingold* Soloists: Bavarian RSO/Haitink (EMI CDS 7 49853 2) (two CDs)

Fifithly marvellous. James Morris's Wotan is outstandingly authoritative, natural and beautiful; Theo Adam puts his all into a lusty Alberich; and the excellent Donner, Fasolt and Fafner make this a *Rheingold* rich in depths. Haitink is spacious, and sometimes suddenly engaged.

Thrills of the chase

SPOKEN WORD

Peter Davall

The *Russia House* (EMI/Listener for Pleasure (LFP7430) Summer's Lease (The Radio Collection ZBBC1089) A Christmas Carol read by Daniel Mays (Argo 1143/44) A Christmas Carol with Ralph Richardson (Collins Caedmon COL 51135) Mary Poppins (Collins Caedmon COL 51246)

than it did on the small screen, though not even Miss Fleetwood can replicate John Gielgud's

outrageous roué, Haverford Down.

While there's a last drop of Christmas spirit left in you, make a note of these two versions of Dickens's great Christmas story. The Daniel Mays three-hour reading is the whole text, and nothing but. I have never heard it better done. Mays climbs into so many skins that when he scrambles out of them to get into his principal garb as narrator, you wonder whether this really can be the same man doing it all. Considerably shorter (56 min, but nothing vital missing), is the reissued 1960 version, with Paul Scofield too uninvolved as narrator and Ralph Richardson too nice as Scrooge.

Another useful early addition to your Christmas 1990 shopping list is the 54-minute reading — by Maggie Smith, Robert Stephens and strong cast — of four Mary Poppins tales. Forget the Disney version. This is the magical nanny as P. L. Travers fashioned her for the printed page.

ROCK UPDATE

Lisa Stansfield Affection (Arista 260 379) Rochdale's premier, if not only, electro-soul diva emerged from the same post-house stable that produced Yazz, and enjoyed the surprise No 1 of 1989 with "All Around the World". Her debut album is a similarly poised and seductive affair.

De La Soul 3 Feet High and Rising (Big Life/Tommy Boy DLSLP 1) "The Magic Number" is the fourth hit single to come from this extraordinarily popular and influential debut. With its zany mixture of gentle whimsy, good vibes and lethal dance grooves, this album has almost single-handedly hauled rap out of the dark ages.

The Dan Reed Network Slam (Mercury 833 662-2) Imaginative no-nonsense second album from the multi-racial Oregon five-piece. Produced by Nile Rogers, it is a beguiling concoction of modern hard rock with an unusually funky edge.

UB40 Labour of Love II (Virgin DEP 14)

Six years after the landmark *Labour of Love*, comes a second batch of chink chosen and finely wrought cover versions.



Vehemently energetic: Bernstein's interpretation of Mahler's No 6

recordings of the Adagietto are so meticulously "heard": the minuscule of Mahler's melodic and harmonic imaginings vibrate in slow, sustained playing.

Haitink's 1972 Bruckner No 5 with the Concertgebouw was one of the most lucid accounts of its time 16 years on, it would still be difficult to find a more consistently satisfying interpreter. The change, of course, is the body of players: their being Austrian does make a difference. A characteristically instinctive response to the inner pulse of the dances in the Scherzo seems to inspire Haitink to greater expansiveness in the outer movements. He still, though, is sensitive to their comparative leanness, the alternately diffident and fibrous quality of their development.

It is hard to believe Bernstein is

directing the same orchestra in his Mahler No 6. DC's intensely close acoustic emphasizes a reading which tends to the strident, so vehement is its rhythmic energy, so sharp-edged its brass playing.

But, equally typically, there is that irresistible sense of instinct with which the arch of phrase opens out, the alacrity with which the LP's string soloists leap to its crest, and the wonder of their woodwind's parade of leering figures in the Scherzo.

Despite the linguistic ease and idiomatic well-being of Thomas Hampson's singing, this is a disappointing *Kindertotenlieder* and it is Bernstein's fault. Too often the inflections of Mahler's word setting become weighed down by superfluous rubato. All too eager to equate every expressive with *ritenuto*, Bernstein paces the songs flatly, thereby drawing attention to the weaker depths of Hampson's baritone.

To turn to the Oslo Philharmonic's properly ventilated

Dvořák with Mariss Jansons is something of a relief. This is spruce, sprightly playing, with the end of one phrase sparkling into the beginning of the next, and a bright, keen string sound which comes into its own in the bold outlines of the final allegro. By contrast, the Oslo Phil's cors anguisis sets the slow movement apart: the long white nights of both Jansons's musical homelands never seem far away.

It is the San Francisco players who are proving to be the champions of at least one branch of Scandinavian music at present. Herbert Blomstedt reaches the centre point of his fine Nielsen series with a recording of the first and last symphonies (Nos 2 and 3 remain to be released later this year). Each symphony is closely understood and re-created with all the care and enthusiasm of new discovery. Blomstedt has the measure of the reticence and human scale of the First: if anything, he plays down the influence of Brahms and plays up the warm textures and fresh harmonic rhythms of the village music-making at the composer's roots.

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clear of the sentimental; his woodwind soloists show their mettle in the sizzling, sour-sweet solos and the cadential figures which so often slip just out of grasp. In the chamber-musical Sixth, Blomstedt's precision of ear and vividness of imagination locate the pivot of ambiguity in this complex last work.

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His string players are alert to the querulous energy and lean writing

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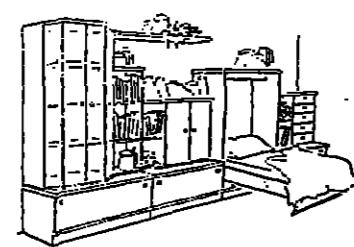
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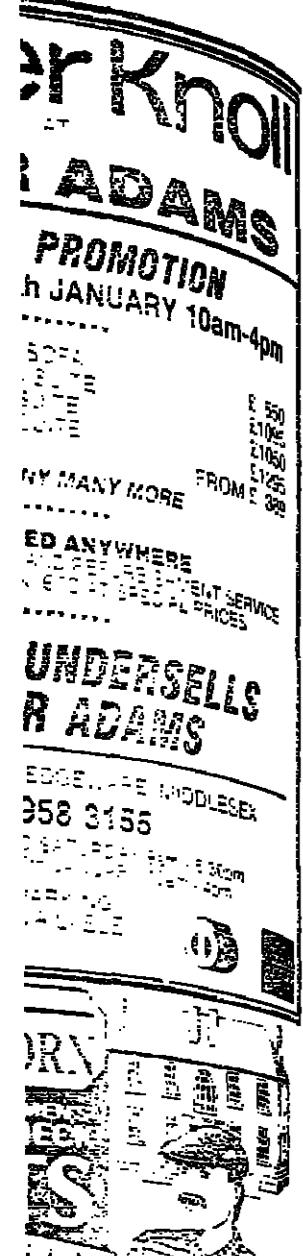
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SHOPPING

Brushing on a broader canvas

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROS DRINKWATER

Nicole Swengley talks to a watercolourist who has turned his skills to designing and producing wallpapers and fabrics

When Glynn Boyd Harte, the artist and *Times* illustrator, failed to find the wallpapers and fabrics he wanted for his newly acquired 18th-century London house, he decided to design and produce his own. This week his work goes on sale at interior design shops throughout the country.

The collection, under the Dolphin Studio label, is in the style of the watercolours for which Boyd Harte is renowned. His flowers are life-size, realistically coloured and shadowed to make them appear three-dimensional. "My flowers are drawn naturally, not stylized," he says. "I don't think this has been attempted on fabric or wallpaper before."

"I wanted to get away from the extremes — the English nostalgia for the sprigged, Victorian look, and the modern movement which seems to have got stuck in the Sixties. I feel that colour and freshness is lacking in many modern designs because they are all so pared down."

Using the production methods employed by artist-craftsmen of the past, Boyd Harte draws each colour separation himself, which eliminates any mechanical preparation before the cloth or paper is dyed.

"I've always liked working with other craftsmen so I am very happy working alongside proofers who mix the colour, and the wallpaper manufacturers," he says. "I think it's the artist's role to be involved with every aspect of the job. There's nothing quite like watching hundreds of yards of your own fabric being printed."

Starting with William Morris, there has been a long history in Britain of artists producing decorative crafts in this way. But, with modern art education pigeon-holing students into specific areas, traditional processes have been lost. It is this tradition of applied decoration and the spirit of artist-involvement which Boyd Harte hopes to revive in his work for the Dolphin Studio.

"Art schools blinker you into one department or another," he laments. "I feel strongly that if you are an artist you should do a whole range of things. I studied illustration at the Royal College of Art but I class myself as a painter — though one who equally likes the decorative application of painting walls." Boyd Harte qualified from



Design for living: Glynn Boyd Harte with part of his collection

the RCA in 1973 and has since held 10 one-man exhibitions of watercolours, lithographs and drawings in London, Paris and New York. He has produced six limited edition books and an illustrated account of life in Venice.

But it was his imaginative decoration of the Dolphin Brasserie in London, with its underwater scenes translated to carpets, curtains, furnishing fabric, plates, menus and mugs, which provided the inspiration for forming the Dolphin Studio.

Nicholas Crawley, the owner of the brasserie, was so impressed with Boyd Harte's designs that he encouraged him to put into production the fabric and wallpapers the artist was designing for his London house. As the director of several hotels and restaurants, Crawley is well placed in his role as commercial development director of

Dolphin Studio. Other members of the company are Joanna Holcroft, managing director, who has worked in the wallpaper and textile industry since 1976, and Dr Miriam Stoppard, chairman, better known for her television medical programmes, articles and books.

The Stoppards have always bought paintings at my exhibitions and have given me a lot of encouragement so it seemed natural that Miriam should become involved. She has amazing business acumen and was the managing director of a pharmaceutical company and a furniture design business for several years.

As design director of Dolphin Studio, Boyd Harte's knowledge of specialist printing techniques, gained by producing lithographs, etchings and silk screens, is put to excellent use. But, though the studio will initially produce

only his designs — he is aiming to produce an annual collection — it is hoped that it will eventually commission designs from other well-known artists once the style and range has become established.

"We decided to start with a compact collection (there are six fabrics, six wallpapers and four borders) because I feel we can wait to include larger designs. I have hundreds up my sleeve. We also want to be able to adapt to our customers' tastes."

Boyd Harte hopes to produce a range based on old French wallpapers for 1992 and is keen to come up with a special range for the United States, where tastes tend to favour bolder designs than in Britain. He also plans a range of seaweed and coral designs for bathrooms. At first, the ranges will be aimed at the domestic market but he hopes that later there will be corporate collections for boardrooms and offices.

"We're keen to come up with designs that are distinctly new and to use Irish linen and good quality papers," he says.

Boyd Harte feels that his prices compare favourably with collections by Osborne & Little and Colefax & Fowler. Like these established companies, Dolphin Studio will shortly have a sample book at most interior design outlets.

As for the future, he says: "It has always been my ambition to open a shop with all kinds of decorative accessories — plates, gift-wrap and so on; not an interior decoration shop as such but an outlet for adapting my own designs to a whole range of items."

In time, it may well turn out that this initial collection of fabrics and wallpapers is just the first brushstroke on a very broad canvas.

• Dolphin Studio wallpapers are made in the UK, and rolls measure 52cm wide and 10.05m long. Prices range from £16.50 a roll for "Dolphin Stripe" to £25.95 for "Pansy". Borders, which vary in size from 8.5cm x 10.05m to 10.05cm x 10.05m, cost £11.90 each. The fabrics are 100 per cent cotton (except for a large check in linen union), measuring 137cm wide. Prices range from £13.90 a metre for a small check to £27.90 for "Anemone", "Pansy" and "Parrot Tulip". Prices exclude VAT.



Top: mix of checks and "Pansy" prints. Centre: "Parrot Tulip" (left) and "Anemone". Left: "Creamware" border (far left). "Creamware" border, "Golden Trellis" border and "Lag and Feather" border (centre), and "Anemone" detail. Boyd Harte says: "My flowers are drawn naturally, not stylized, with shadows incorporated to give a three-dimensional look."

New line in table talk

CHARLES MILLIGAN

These tables are conversation pieces in their own right

Once, coffee tables were the unobtrusive holders of piles of magazines, luxurious books, plants, coffee mugs and wine glasses, without so much as a whisper about themselves. Whether made of glass, wood or metal, it was their bland neutrality which characterized them. Now they have become conversation pieces in their own right, crying out for attention. (Nicole Swengley writes.)

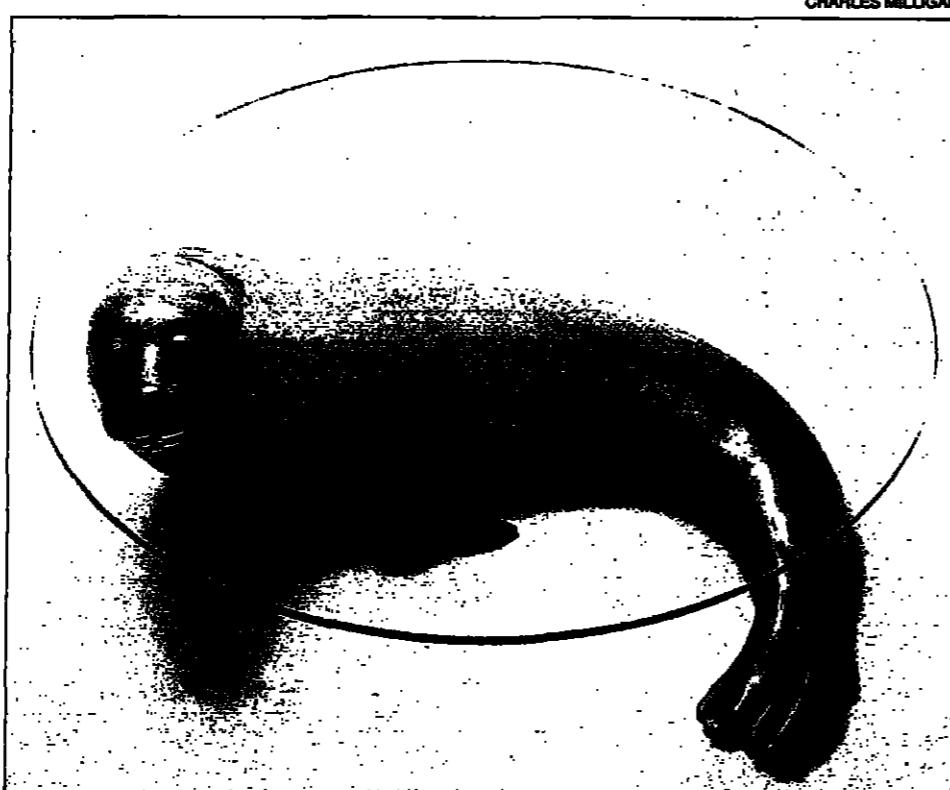
For example, Peter Luck-Hill's flamboyant tablescapes incorporate abstract cut-outs in Day-Glo acrylic representing trees, buildings and people. Miniature, model electric or steam railways can be supplied to complete the effect, which can be re-arranged at the owner's whim by removing the glass top and changing the scenery inside.

The tables are made by Main Line Trains, who build model railways for private and commercial clients. Table bases are constructed in geometric or lattice style and are available in a variety of sizes. Each table is custom-made to individual requirements and costs from £795. For details, phone 01-722 4957.

Luck-Hill, the managing director, whose great-grandfather founded the Hille furniture company, has always admired pieces which make a statement. "I'm into furniture as art. Furniture that has something to say for itself," he explains. "I have always had a penchant for unusual coffee tables. Then I got into producing trains, so it seemed natural to develop the concept of a coffee table with a train running around inside."

Derek Pearce's coffee tables are even more eccentric. His collection of "Water Tables" includes the upturned ducks and seal tables shown here, along with a hippo table, a man-in-the-bath table and a table of swimmers.

The tables are made of cold cast bronze with the central



Seal table by Derek Pearce, £1,800

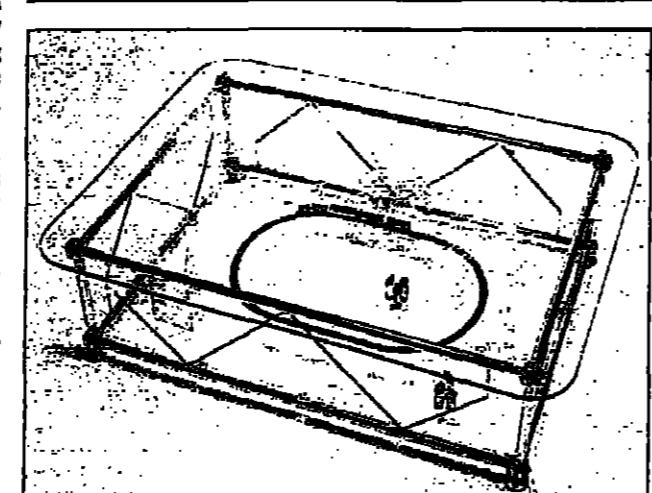
figures rising through and above a glass horizontal which forms the table top. Prices start at £1,800 for the seal table; the ducks and hippo tables cost £3,500.

With a background in theatrical set designing and musical composition for film and theatre, Pearce says that he likes to work in a variety of artistic areas. "I'm basically concerned with developing ideas, so the wood or metal are vehicles for making an idea work. The means to an end."

It was the realization that glass-topped coffee tables appear to have a watery surface that prompted this first venture into making the kind of pieces which hover between sculpture and furniture. That, and the fact that humour is a vital element of the concept. "I feel the humorous element is important in breaking down preconceived notions about art and the way people think things should be," he says.

Pearce (known to his friends as "Egg") accepts commissions from those who share his sense of whimsy. He can be contacted on 01-674 2074.

The tables are made of cold



Tablescape (above) by Main Line Trains, from £795. Upturned ducks table (centre) by Derek Pearce, £3,500.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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LENNY KRAVITZ: Twenty-five-year-old dread-rocker from New York whose closest spiritual relations must include Terence Trent D'Arby and Prince. Mon, Marquee, London WC2 (01-437 6603); Wed, Boardwalk, Manchester (061 228 3555).

ERASURE: Second leg of the duo's longest-ever UK tour, at the end of which they will have performed before a total audience of more than 230,000 people. Tues and Wed, Whitley Bay Ice Rink (011 252 6240); Thurs, SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000).

RED LORRY YELLOW LORRY: Last September's *Blow* found the Lories adding some surprisingly tuneful colourings to their mournful, clumpy Goth-rock sound. Tues, Burberry's, Birmingham (021 643 1500); Wed, Huddersfield Polytechnic (0484 538155); Thurs, Bette Hall, Scunthorpe (0724 842332).

THE ALARM: Increasingly slick post-punk rockers with a mission to champion the Welsh language, by conquering the American charts. Fri, Music Hall, Aberdeen (0224 641122).



Eric Clapton: artist in residence

Contemplating the start of his third January residency at London's Royal Albert Hall, Eric Clapton let it be known that he now regards this annual exercise as something akin to a rock equivalent of the Proms. Leaving aside the towering egotism of the man, such aspirations speak volumes about the institutionalized respectability of a performer who, 25 years ago, left the Yardbirds because their increasingly "commercial" approach robbed against the grain of his then perennial obsession with the blues. As a nod in the direction of those long-gone days, Clapton plans to render three of these concerts (February 3, 4 and 5) as a celebration of the blues, and has enlisted the help of Robert Cray, the genre's outstanding Young Turk, and Chicago veteran Buddy Guy. More ominously, he has also commissioned Michael Kamen, with whom he worked on the scores of *Edge of Darkness* and *Lethal Weapon 2*, to write him a full-blown concerto for guitar to be performed on February 8, 9 and 10. The rest of the shows promise to be the usual formula of nonchalant, well-heeled excellence, played by the usual crack backing band, although enlivened by some of the less familiar material from *Journeyman*, Clapton's new album. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133), tomorrow, Mon and Tues, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212), January 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, February 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10.



Character study: a Hals creation

The two most remarkable works among the 66 paintings by Frans Hals (1581-1666), which go on show today at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, are the late group portraits of the Regents and Regentesses of the Old Men's Almshouse in Haarlem, the artist's home town. Besides being considered among the greatest character studies ever painted, they hold the key to Hals's life and work. It is important to remember that the subjects of these pictures were the same charity governors responsible for periodically dispensing to the artist hand-outs of fuel and shelter. His life hitherto had been a catalogue of brushes with the authority represented by such wealthy notables. He was yearly in court for debt and was finally declared bankrupt. He also drank heavily and may have been disposed to violence; he was rumoured to have killed his first wife in a drunken rage. Of his eight children one was mad and another was incarcerated, apparently for loose morals. Between frequent appearances in the dock, Hals managed to develop a virtuoso painting technique well suited to the cocky, ruddy-faced characters he portrayed. All of the bravura typifying his free style was employed in his portrayals of the Regents to expose their mean and smug conceits. This is one exhibition not to be missed. Royal Academy of Arts, London W1 (01-439 7438). From today. Champagne reception on Tuesday in aid of the Haemophilia Society (tickets: 01-334 7566).

GALLERIES

DAVID LEE

ARSHILE GORKY (1890-1948): A retrospective of paintings and drawings by an American abstract expressionist forerunner of Pollock and Rothko. Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (01-377 0107). From Fri.

THEMATA: New drawings by Deanne Petherbridge in his artist's familiar "architectural" style but now with narrative overtones due to the introduction of figures. Fischer Fine Art, London SW1 (01-833 3842). From Thurs.

DEGAS IMAGES OF WOMEN: Paintings, drawings and pastels of a whole range of subjects from prostitutes to laundresses and society women. Burrell Collection, Glasgow (041 649 7151). From Mon.

NORTHLANDS: New art from Scandinavia. Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (0885 726008). From Sun.

THE TREE OF LIFE: Thematic works by 21 contemporary artists such as Bill Woodrow and Lili Fischer. DJI Museum, Durham (091-384 2214). From today.

JACK SMITH: New, abstract "musical" paintings by a founder member of the Kitchen Sink School of social realism in the 1950s. Flowers East, London E8 (01-995 3333). From Tues.



Cheryl Campbell as the constant wife: revealing how much the Nineties are in tune with the Twenties

CINEMA

GEOFF BROWN

JESUS OF MONTREAL (198: An updated version of a Passion Play causes controversy in Montreal. Strained satirical fireworks from Canadian director Denis Arcand. Lumière (01-836 0691). From Fri.

SISTERS (15): Engaging romantic comedy with fairytale trimmings. Patrick Dempsey as an American student spending Christmas with an eccentric Quebec family. Directed by Michael Hoffman. Cannon Pantom Street (01-930 0631). From Fri.

SCENES FROM THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN BEVERLY HILLS (10): Satirical fun and games with a soft centre from director-actor Paul Bartel; with Jacqueline Bisset as an actress attempting a comeback. Cannon Haymarket (01-838 1527). From Fri.

LONDON MIME FESTIVAL: World's largest festival of mime and visual theatre. Free programme booklet from London Mime Festival, 28 Museum Street WC1 (01-637 5661). Various venues. From Mon to Jan 28.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Ashton's great romantic comedy *La Fille Mal Gardée* returns to the programmes (Tues, Wed, Thurs). With Lesley Collier and Stephen Jeffries dancing on the Tues. This time the ballet will be accompanied by a new staging of the virtuous *Pas de Sore* from Chabukiani's *ballet Laurence*, a showpiece of the Kirov repertoire. Further performances of *Cinderella*, this afternoon and evening, Fri and Sat Jan 20. Sylvie Guillem takes the title role today and Fri and Sat Almeida on Sat Jan 20. Covent Garden (01-240 1068).

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: Final week of the *Nutcracker* season, today and Monday to Jan 20, with matinees on Sat. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 8800).

Suzman, Sutherland: white angst

Six years separate Euzhan Palcy's first feature *Rue Cases Nègres* from her second, *A Dry White Season*, a powerful assault on apartheid, based on André Brink's novel. But the years were certainly not spent idly. In 1984, the Martinique-born film-maker optioned Brink's combative book, which had been published five years before and swiftly banned by the South African censor. Thereafter she doggedly began nurturing a script. Once producer Paula Weinstein joined the project, David Puttnam suggested Colin Welland as a suitable writer to handle the story of two families – one white, one black – devastated by the violent Soweto uprising of 1976. Marlon Brando was the first actor to sign on, taking the cameo role of McKenzie, a civil rights lawyer; fortunately for the production, he waived his fee. Main parts went to Donald Sutherland playing a complacent teacher belatedly politicized by the brutal fate of his black gardener, Janet Suzman as Sutherland's inflexible wife, and Zakes Mokae, who was last seen oozing evil in *The Serpent and the Rainbow*. The film shot in Zimbabwe, has already been seen in specialized venues in South Africa, including a cinema bordering Soweto itself, where the response was apparently overwhelming. "Now we can see the truth," one audience member said. Curzon West End (01-439 4805), certificate 15. From Friday.

BRIDGE

In one of his last columns for *The Times*, Jeremy Flint gave a handy tactical tip: if you know what your final contract is likely to be, go there at once; don't give your opponents room to find their best contract. South scored a big gain for his side by taking this advice on the following hand:

Rubber bridge. Game all. Dealer South.

♦ A 10 4 3
♦ 6 5 3
♦ J 9 7 6
♦ K 10 8 2
W E S
N ♦ Q 5
Q 9 8 7 2
Q 10 8 4
♦ 3

South opened with the gambling three no trump and West was in a spot. Some players use a four club or diamond bid in this situation to show a shortage in the bid suit, but without such a gadget West could only double. North bid a conventional four clubs to show that he could not stand the double, and now it was East's turn to double.

South could pretty well work out that East-West were very likely to make game and possibly slam, so he made the fine bid of five diamonds. West doubled, and that was the end of the auction. Obviously declarer took only nine tricks, but a penalty of 350 turned out to be a good score.

West was clearly at fault here. He should have passed the five diamond bid (1) because he has already bid his hand fully, and (2) because a double of five diamonds would tend to suggest that his side had diamond losers and

to warn his partner against bidding on. If five diamonds goes round to East undoubled, East probably has enough to try another trick and West has another tricky decision: whether to raise five hearts to six or not.

Six hearts does in fact make on a dummy reversal. Declarer ruffs two diamonds, draws trumps, leads twice towards the Q J of spades – obviously North cannot rise with the ace – cashes the ace and queen of clubs and plays off the last two trumps in the East hand. In the three-card position North has to bare his ace of spades in order to keep the club guard, and a spade lead now end-plays him. A neat squeeze and throw-in, and 1430 points to East-West.

Sacrificing an rubber bridge

is not a precise art, and is little understood by the general run of players. One authority goes so far as to state that "broadly speaking, there is little future in sacrificing at a rubber bridge", but this is not the whole story.

Clearly, if you are playing with the weakest player at the table, sacrificing is lunatic: you are handing your opponents money for the privilege of continuing to play against them at a disadvantage. By the same token, if you and your partner are the stronger pair it is worth paying a little to stay in the game. But you still run the risk of making a phantom sacrifice, of going down to prevent them going down.

Tactics do require a degree of personal flair but another area of the game, technique, can simply be learnt. No competent player would nowadays make South's mistake on the next deal.

Rubber bridge. North-South 90. Dealer South.

♦ A 8 3
♦ Q K 6 5
♦ K 10 8 2
W E S
N ♦ Q 5
Q 9 8 7 2
Q 10 8 4
♦ 3

W N E S

No 10 9 7
No 8 6 5
No 7 5 4

No 6 4 3

No 5 3 2

No 4 2 1

No 3 1 0

No 2 1 0

No 1 0 0

No 0 0 0

SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1990

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Coe is a gazelle with the snarl of a tiger

Sydney

It has been said that in political journalism, journalists are writing as if they disliked people they rather liked, whereas in sport the journalists write as if they liked people whom they cordially despise.

Sebastian Coe is playing out the last reel of his sporting life and preparing to join the more grown-up fantasy world of politics. So perhaps this will be the last uncritically friendly press conference of his life.

He conducted it here yesterday on the 31st floor of a building overlooking the bridge and the opera house, and he did so with a sort of self-confident breeziness that will no doubt become part of his stock-in-trade when he starts running for Thatcher.

"No, I've got other things to think about now, other things to do. And I want to retire at a first-class level..." He runs tomorrow in a

warm-up meeting here, and then on to Auckland and the Commonwealth Games for the last attempt at one of those yellow medals. He tries his usual double of 800 and 1,500 metres.

The Commonwealth Games is usually thought to be a pretty sub-standard athletics competition. But this time I would have. The day after I had finished, I just sat around in the flat. I couldn't think what to do." Steve Davis has said that the aftermath of a major championship always leaves him depressed, even, or perhaps especially, if he has won it. The aftermath of a career like Coe's could be desperately hard to handle.

But hangovers are the last thing he is thinking about right now. He is in the routine, familiar and well-loved, of preparing for a major championship: a preparation that has

earn this one. "It is very important that I race as well as possible," he said. Racing as well as possible has, for about 20 years, been the most important thing in the entire world for Coe. It will be strange for him when this is no longer the case.

"No, it would be foolish to say that athletics is a good preparation for a career in politics," he said. "In some day-to-day things, like experience of handling the media, sure, it will help. But it is things I have done outside sport that will help me more."

Coe will go into politics as a very popular fellow. It is strange how, once people have decided on a person's character, they will not change their minds ever, no matter how much irrefutable evidence they have to the contrary.

Everybody knows that Coe is the nice one to be compared and contrasted with Steve Ovett, who was supposed to be the nasty one. People were

happy with such an archetypal simplification. Ovett was cunning, a tricky racer, a scrapper, arrogant and tough. Coe made you think that it must be rather splendid to be an athlete at the absolute pinnacle of condition.

"No, it would be foolish to say that athletics is a good preparation for a career in politics," he said. "In some day-to-day things, like experience of handling the media, sure, it will help. But it is things I have done outside sport that will help me more."

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and grace, but through driving aggression, through a desire for victory that was greater and stronger than that of anyone else in the race. That is how I will always think of Coe: Coe unmasked, stripped naked of his genuine charm by the truth drug of victory.

But never mind the facts: Coe is, thus far, inviolate the nice guy. "No, I am not hoping to become a sports minister. I have broad interests." He is prospective parliamentary candidate for Falmouth and Camborne, and in a few weeks will be out there in Cornwall doing his bit for his team.

You can't wrong-foot him here: he has done a lot of homework about the place, and talks about matters affecting the constituency, with great elan. He is eager to let you know that you can't wrong-foot him as well. Still, I suppose MPs who take an interest in their constituencies are rare enough, and should be

savoured as a novelty.

Now there is a piece of cheap, gratuitous cynicism for you. But Coe is in for a whole lot more of this. It is impossible not to question anybody in politics: from there cynicism is an easy and natural step. Coe, who is supremely used to being liked and admired, is going to have to get used to being cordially disliked by a great many people.

I remember talking to Wes Hall, the former West Indian fast bowler, now Minister for Sport in Barbados. I asked him if being a hugely popular sportsman had helped him in his political career. "When I was a cricketer, everyone on the island liked me," he said, saying this as a semi-joke. "Now I am in politics, maybe half of them hate me."

If Coe does as well as that in Falmouth and Camborne, he will have done well. Commonwealth gold medal or no. Sporting diary, page 10



TRAVEL

BEHIND THE MASKS OF CARNIVAL

From Venice to Rio, from Vienna to Cologne, the carnival is an occasion of modern entertainment and ancient rite. In Rome the she-wolf was feted by the annual release of prisoners, writes Hillary Finch, but it was when the rites of paganism and Christianity collided that carnival was born. Page 53

WHY IT'S A PLEASURE TO SKI USA

While the ski prospects in Europe remain poor in many areas, the skiing in America is as good as ever, reports Brian James. It is not so much the altitude as the attitude which makes the transatlantic crossing worthwhile. Page 59



WATCHING FOR THE WHALES

Off the coast of Cape Cod families of humpback and minke whales feed in the shallow waters with such obliging regularity that their presence has stimulated a flourishing boat-trip business. Nancy Lee Patton took the half-hour journey to watch the giants of the sea. Page 61

Ryan to discover the harsh reality of management

By Louise Taylor

After the trauma of having three different managers and two chairmen in the space of a fortnight, Anfield is surely the last place Luton Town would have wished to visit this afternoon. Not according to Jimmy Ryan, the man who succeeded Ray Harford and Terry Mancini as manager of the relegation-threatened Bedfordshire club. After his first day in charge, Ryan yesterday declared: "Liverpool have never frightened me."

If Harford lacked "charisma," Ryan is certainly not short on bravado. "I am not daunted by the prospect of Liverpool," he added. "In fact I would much rather start off with the big-game atmosphere. Better Anfield than somewhere like Gillingham or Hartlepool."

Behind the facade, Ryan, formerly in charge of the reserves, is well aware of the reality that is Luton's failure to win any of their last 10 League games. In the process they have slumped to second from bottom in the first division.

Charlton Athletic, the cushion between Luton and the bottom, and Aston Villa, breathing heavily down Liverpool's neck at the top of the table, meet at Selhurst Park in a match both want to win for

Sunday's win can be a lift to both supporters and players, and be just the boost we needed." Derby, smarting after Wednesday's FA Cup exit to Port Vale will be out to prove him wrong.

The long ball meets the short in East Anglia where promotion pushing Ipswich Town, beaten only once in their last 15 encounters, and playing some delightful one touch stuff, will endeavour to combat the "route one" approach as practised by Sheffield United.

Exactly 21 years after taking charge of Ipswich, Bobby Robson, now the England manager, will be amongst the Portman Road crowd.

His interest will be heightened should Louise, returning after a lengthy absence following a knee operation, step off the substitutes' bench. It is somewhat surprising that Ipswich's recent good run has coincided with the loss of the former England under-21 international forward, who is arguably their best player.

Sheffield United are one place and two points behind Luton United, another Yorkshire side with a similarly direct philosophy. Chapman, a £400,000 midweek signing from Nottingham Forest leads their attack at Blackburn Rovers.

Gospel Rock, who was having his first race in the Whitsunday Novices' Hurdle at Wetherby yesterday, ran off the course and ended up in the Swan and Talbot public house in the village of Wetherby.

The six-year-old, ridden by Graham Bradley, was in the lead until falling to negotiate

Ascot success for The Welder

IAN STEWART



The Welder (Willie McFarland, left) jumps the last fractionally ahead of Broad Beam (David Hood, right) and A Lad Insane (Ian Lawrence) in the Backtail Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase at Ascot yesterday. Racing, pages 54-55

Racehorse drops in at public house

By Steve Acteson

Gospel Rock, who was having his first race in the Whitsunday Novices' Hurdle at Wetherby yesterday, ran off the course and ended up in the Swan and Talbot public house in the village of Wetherby.

The six-year-old, ridden by Graham Bradley, was in the lead until falling to negotiate

the bottom bend where he jumped the perimeter fence, throwing his jockey.

Bradley, who like Gospel Rock escaped unscathed, said: "The horse was very green and just bolted. I was very lucky to land on the grass verge just feet from the A1 where traffic was going up and down."

Peter Calver, the gelding's trainer, said: "I can't understand what made him do it. I have hunted him several times and he has shown no signs of waywardness. He has no more than a few cuts which is incredible as he jumped some barbed wire and went through a concrete post."

The Ripon trainer has been plagued with misfortune at Wetherby over the years. "I didn't want to run him there," Calver said. "It's an excellent course, but the last horse I sent there for the owner, Lord Zetland, was Beiderbecke. He fell at the first fence and broke his back."

MP seeks register for playing fields

By Derek Barnett, Parliamentary Staff

A call to the Government immediately to begin setting up a register of every piece of recreational playing space was made in a Commons adjournment debate by Kate Hoey, Labour MP for Vauxhall, when she voiced worries about what she called a "crisis" in sport and recreation, especially in sport and recreation, especially in sport.

She was told by Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, that he hoped that bodies associated with sport and recreation would soon set up such a register themselves.

Miss Hoey, a former athlete and a physical education expert, and one-time education officer at Arsenal, asserted that the ever-increasing

Francisco shows resilience

By Steve Acteson

Silvino Francisco recovered from the brink of being 4-0 down against Warren King in their Mercantile Credit Classic snooker semi-final, to lead 5-3, in Blackpool yesterday. Francisco, of South Africa, had shown great resilience after King of Australia, had led 3-0 but their resilience has had part of Francisco's make-up in recent years.

Hoey wanted every planning authority to have a statutory responsibility to maintain a recreational playing space register.

Moynihan thought that it would be better if a register were to be set up by the Sports Council, the National Playing Fields Association and the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

Later remarks made about Francisco on television by Rex Williams and John Virgo,

former chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), led to an out-of-court libel settlement for an undisclosed amount.

But at last season's Benson and Hedges Masters he was again embroiled in controversy when allegations were made of betting irregularities after he had lost 5-1 to Terry Griffiths.

Francisco tucked it away to tie the scores at 48 points apiece and then sank a repeated black for his first success. He won the next four frames to need one to reach the final.

Yesterday, however, Francisco was able to concentrate purely on snooker, having slipped from tenth to

23rd in the world rankings.

King laced together a break of 72 to win the opening frame and then cleared with 40 for a 2-0 advantage. Francisco, needing three snookers on the green, in the third frame, gained two and then four points when King sank the cue ball. But the frame eluded Francisco as it seemed would the fourth when King cleared to pink only to miss the black.

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RESULTS (England unless stated): Snooker S (England) 5 (SA) leads W King (Aus) 5-3. Yesterday's late quarter-final result: S James 5 W Jones (Wales) 2.

Great Britons rally round Richmond

By a Special Correspondent

Professional skaters and coaches are to begin a campaign to save Britain's most famous ice rink. The Richmond Ice Rink Preservation Society, which meets for the first time today, will call on the support of Britain's greatest skaters: John Curry, Robin Cousins, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean.

The rink, which has been operating for 60 years, has produced many champions, notably Curry, the 1976 Olympic gold medal-winner. It also stages the biggest skating event in Britain, the Skate Electric UK International. The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club lies next to the proposed development site. The club part-owned the road leading to the site and refused to allow the developers to use it, thus blocking the scheme. In October a new agreement

was drawn up between the council and LET which gave the council until December 29 to solve this problem. The council could not do so, enabling LET to pay £2.5 million in compensation and build the 250 homes on the site of the old rink without building a replacement. It is estimated that the rink will be demolished within 18 months.

"We are losing a major sporting facility and part of our heritage," Duncan Crockford, the marketing manager of Richmond Ice Rink, said. Tim Razzall, the deputy leader of Richmond council, said: "We would have preferred the £2.5 million in compensation."

The council has been prompted several personalities from the world of skating to comment. Courtney Jones, the president of the National Skating Association and former world ice dance champion, said: "It would be sad to see

the Richmond rink disappear because it has been part of our skating heritage.

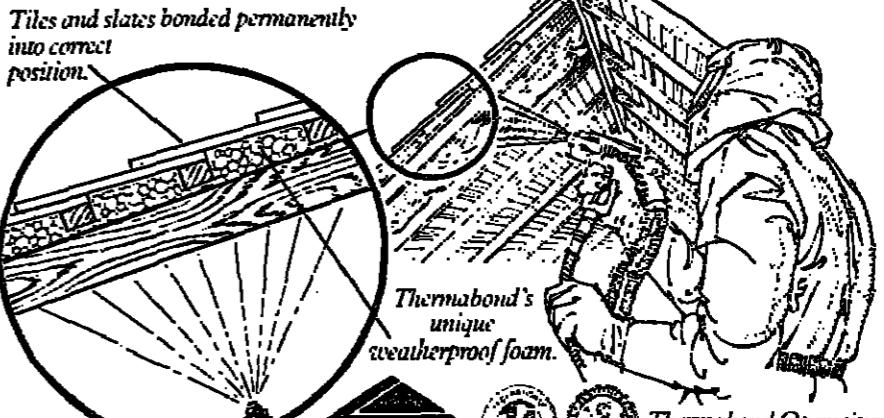
"So many champions, foreign as well as British, have come from Richmond through Arnold Gerschler, who trained John Curry before he went to the United States."

Peter Bradley, the trainer of Torvill and Dean, said: "Even foreigners are sad to hear it may close. I had the privilege of teaching Princess Anne there for three seasons and Prince Charles and Prince Andrew for shorter periods. It is something special, with so much history and tradition, an institution, really."

Roy Lee, who has been coaching at the rink for 3 years, and who is leading the attempt to save it, said: "I can understand this place coming down, but a new rink has got to be built in its place."

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FOOTBALL: FLAMBOYANT MANAGER WHO HAS TRANSFORMED HILLSBOROUGH

Rangers unlikely to concede ground

Atkinson confident he can still work magic trick or two

By Roddy Forsyth

The impact of the outcome of the last half dozen premier division fixtures has been to cushion Rangers' leadership to the point where it cannot be overtaken for at least three weeks, and then only if the defending champions should lose their subsequent two league fixtures, which are divided by a Scottish Cup tie at home to St Mirren next Saturday.

The chances of Rangers conceding ground to their championship rivals today seems remote, since the visitors are the bottom team, Dundee, whose hopes of avoiding relegation appear to depend on the sudden loss of form of Duffernine, who are scheduled to play Aberdeen at Pittodrie.

Rangers, having beaten Celtic and Aberdeen in their previous two outings are, of course, appropriately confident and although they have named a 13-strong squad which included Scott Nisbet and Neal Cooper, it is unlikely that the starting line-up will be altered materially, which means places on the bench for Davie Dodds and teenage full back Chris Vinnicombe.

Dundee must count, on paper at least, as Rangers' most frail opponents for some time, but although the Dens Park team is obliged to admit to the poorest defensive record in the top division, they have drawn comfort this week from the fact that they were able to draw 2-2 on their previous outing to Ibrox.

Aberdeen have had not been short of opportunity to reflect on the capricious nature of football. They led the league for a few days before Christmas, only to discover that their glowing horizons were about to be shrouded in drizzle. A home defeat by Hibernian on Boxing Day saw them lose their goal-keeper, Iain Sneddon, midfield player Jim Bett and striker Hans Gillhaus through injury.

Their only young full back, Davie Robertson, a compatriot, broke a bone in his foot during training, and the disruption at Pittodrie was reflected in a 2-2 draw with Motherwell and last week's defeat by Rangers at Ibrox. Today, at least, the Aberdeen manager Alex Smith knows he can accommodate Bett and Neil Simpson in the centre of the field, while Gillhaus has an even chance of playing against Dunfermline.

The Fifers, meanwhile, are reeling from an unexpected pair of defeats. They fell to St Mirren in midweek and were mauled by Motherwell last Saturday in fixtures which suggested that their early season promise has largely evaporated.

Celtic must begin life without their long serving captain Roy Aitken when they travel to Tannadice, a notoriously barren venue for the Glasgow club. Paul McStay will succeed to the position of captain to lead the team out against Dundee United, and there may be places for full back Anton Rogan and disaffected midfield player Peter Grant. The rumblings amongst the Celtic supporters have been relatively minor in recent weeks but a further setback today is likely to provoke some degree of open disengagement.

FA want Gunn explanation

The Football Association has ordered the Norwich goal-keeper, Bryan Gunn, to explain comments he made about the "Highbury brawl" at the end of their 4-3 defeat against Arsenal.

Gunn decided not to request a personal hearing when the FA charged him with bringing the game into disrepute, following his comments in a daily newspaper two days after the incident in November.

But he has now called to appear before the FA at their Lancaster Gate headquarters on Monday.

By Clive White

For most people it is downhill all the way after leaving a club like Manchester United but for Ron Atkinson life is a roller coaster ride which swings him back into the public eye once more tomorrow when his Sheffield Wednesday team, one of the most improved in the country, will attempt to show against Chelsea at Hillsborough that Big Ron has not lost his touch.

A couple of months ago you could not have got odds on the two Sheffield clubs trading places next season. Wednesday, with one point from their first five games, appeared to be making a record attempt on the fastest relegation from the first division in living memory, while United were heading in the opposite direction with a speed not seen since Dave Bassett went up and at em with Wimbledon.

"We just couldn't get out of the blocks. I had bought some real quality players in the summer but the team just did not gel. I wasn't over-surprised though. It is young side and we had made a lot of changes" Atkinson said.

He recalled that it was just one of those inexplicable spells that teams go through. "I seem to remember that Lenny Lawrence at Charlton was the first manager of the month," he said.

Atkinson has not lost his sense of humour during three largely unsuccessful years after leaving United.

When Wednesday met Manchester City under the stewardship of Howard Kendall, recently arrived from

Heaton teams up with Kendall

Howard Kendall, the manager of Manchester City, will continue his restructuring programme next week by appointing Mick Heaton, the former Everton coach, as his assistant (Ian Ross writes).

Heaton, a community liaison officer with Blackburn Rovers, has enjoyed a lengthy and successful association with Ken-

nington, pulled the club away from the tragedy of Hillsborough and clear of relegation.

Atkinson, though, is not everyone's cup of sangria. What seemed like an idyllic move for Atkinson, a devoted sun worshiper, to Atletico Madrid at the end of 1988, for a reputed £525,000 two-year contract turned out to be a厄 in Spain lasting less than a year. That was another battle which Atkinson claimed that he was winning following a recent judgment in his favour over compensation in Spanish court.

West Bromwich Albion, who also sought compensation from the Spaniards, might also claim to have become disenchanted with Atkinson who twice left them for richer pastures.

Atkinson still has Albion's interests at heart and is annoyed to see the promotion drive, which he helped Brian Talbot begin, come to a grinding halt this season through lack of the sort of ambition which his own Wednesday board has finally shown.

Providing Wednesday can keep pace with Atkinson's confidence, there is no telling where their recent revival will lead them. Alex Ferguson, Atkinson's unsuccessful successor at Old Trafford, has often stated this season that he must be a better manager because he is three years older and wiser than when he arrived at Old Trafford. But when Atkinson was asked if he thought he was any better for his recent experiences, he replied: "No, I always thought I was good."

After a brief unhappy relationship with Peter Eustace, it was almost love at first sight for the Wednesday players, who, responding to Atkinson's style of manage-

ment, pulled the club away from the tragedy of Hillsborough and clear of relegation.

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West Bromwich Albion, who also sought compensation from the Spaniards, might also claim to have become disenchanted with Atkinson who twice left them for richer pastures.

Atkinson still has Albion's interests at heart and is annoyed to see the promotion drive, which he helped Brian Talbot begin, come to a grinding halt this season through lack of the sort of ambition which his own Wednesday board has finally shown.

Providing Wednesday can keep pace with Atkinson's confidence, there is no telling where their recent revival will lead them. Alex Ferguson, Atkinson's unsuccessful successor at Old Trafford, has often stated this season that he must be a better manager because he is three years older and wiser than when he arrived at Old Trafford. But when Atkinson was asked if he thought he was any better for his recent experiences, he replied: "No, I always thought I was good."

After a brief unhappy relationship with Peter Eustace, it was almost love at first sight for the Wednesday players, who, responding to Atkinson's style of manage-

ment, pulled the club away from the tragedy of Hillsborough and clear of relegation.

Never happier than when he is wheeling and dealing, Atkinson has moved ten players out and ten players in since he joined the club on St Valentine's Day last year.

He has not lost his sense of humour during three largely unsuccessful years after leaving United.

When Wednesday met Manchester City under the stewardship of Howard Kendall, recently arrived from

Heaton teams up with Kendall

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Michael Seely meets Jimmy Fitzgerald, trainer of Fragrant Dawn, favourite for The Ladbroke

A taste for bookmakers' money

Standing in the kitchen of Norton Grange stables, just outside Malton, Jimmy Fitzgerald delivered his verdict on Fragrant Dawn's chance of giving the stable its first win in the £125,000 The Ladbroke at Leopardstown this afternoon.

"Fragrant Dawn is well handicapped but I haven't specifically set out to win the race with him," he said. "He's become a very short price and is by no means a good thing, but if the ground is good to soft he's sure to go close to winning. I believe he's certain to finish at least in the first four."

Fitzgerald, renowned for his assaults on the betting ring, readily admits to a liking for bookmakers' money. His again has them in his sights, though this time by the more traditional prize-money route; while Fragrant Dawn contests one bookmaker's sponsorship, Melideour tackles the £40,000 Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot.

"Meikour could have a good each-way chance," Fitzgerald said. "His blood was wrong when he ran disappointingly at Cheltenham last time but if he's in the same mood as when he's won at Ascot before he's going to run well. He's a horse that tells you when he's in good form and at the moment he's particularly bright of eye."

Fitzgerald has become skin to a folk hero in racing. Winners are hard enough to unearth at the best of times, so a man capable of planning and executing long-term betting coupes demands the utmost respect.

The list is impressive: Forgive 'N' Forget in the Coral Golden Hurdle Final in 1983 and in the 1985 Cheltenham Gold Cup; Kaye in the Cesarewitch in 1985 and Galway Blaze in the Hennessy Gold Cup later that autumn; and at York last summer the anticipated victory of Sapienza in the Ebor. All were laid out well in advance and decisive successes added further to the Fitzgerald legend.

Fitzgerald's recent form has been towering. Since Christmas winners have been harvested across the country, including five on Boxing Day.

All trainers dream of such a run, when home gallops work out and horses reproduce, or even surpass, their best form. "It's a lot easier when things are going well," was the trainer's dry comment.

Fragrant Dawn's recent four-length win in the L'Oréal Hurdle at Newbury bore all the hallmarks of a Norton Grange coup. Mark Dwyer's

Results from four meetings

Ascot

Going: good
1.2m (4f 6f) 1. DAYTIME (P) Scudmore, 7-2, 2. Chink (D) Dwyer, 8-1; 3. Sartorius (S) Smith, Eccles, 11-10 fav. ALSO RAN: 4-2 Star Of The Glen (49), 50 (49), 51 (49), 52 (49), 53 (49), 54 (49), 55 (49), 56 (49), 57 (49), 58 (49), 59 (49), 60 (49), 61 (49), 62 (49), 63 (49), 64 (49), 65 (49), 66 (49), 67 (49), 68 (49), 69 (49), 70 (49), 71 (49), 72 (49), 73 (49), 74 (49), 75 (49), 76 (49), 77 (49), 78 (49), 79 (49), 80 (49), 81 (49), 82 (49), 83 (49), 84 (49), 85 (49), 86 (49), 87 (49), 88 (49), 89 (49), 90 (49), 91 (49), 92 (49), 93 (49), 94 (49), 95 (49), 96 (49), 97 (49), 98 (49), 99 (49), 100 (49), 101 (49), 102 (49), 103 (49), 104 (49), 105 (49), 106 (49), 107 (49), 108 (49), 109 (49), 110 (49), 111 (49), 112 (49), 113 (49), 114 (49), 115 (49), 116 (49), 117 (49), 118 (49), 119 (49), 120 (49), 121 (49), 122 (49), 123 (49), 124 (49), 125 (49), 126 (49), 127 (49), 128 (49), 129 (49), 130 (49), 131 (49), 132 (49), 133 (49), 134 (49), 135 (49), 136 (49), 137 (49), 138 (49), 139 (49), 140 (49), 141 (49), 142 (49), 143 (49), 144 (49), 145 (49), 146 (49), 147 (49), 148 (49), 149 (49), 150 (49), 151 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rdstown
booked
mentary

ig Correspondent, Dublin
Since the compilation of the
weights list has now been
excellent trial to final entry
terms, before the Kildare
Kempton Park, where he
met the winner, he was
Royal Derby, trained at New
Ireland last spring when he
the Guinness Cup and
Champion Four-Cat Old
drove from a field of 11
incurred. Highland Field
would give him a horse
chance.

Arthur Moore has taught
best record in an event which
is attempting to win for the
time. Joyful Noise, his
sensitive this year, has
met with a blunder at the
course and distance but could
find this competition too hot.

Martins will be the main
as this former British super
brought off a major coup in
Irish Cesarewitch and has
been laid out for the race.

However, he could prove
long distance over hard
as the ground is
driving out quickly yearn
John Webster will run his
supporting races. The best
case can be made for Elegie
the Fitzpatrick Shannon's
rock Chase as he was a
second to Another Cont.

OWN FIELD BBC

handicap hurdle: 122.950: 2m 7f

1/P Fitzpatrick: J. Soper 7-12

1/P Webster: J. Soper 7-12

TRAVEL

Attitude, not altitude

European ski resorts have much to learn from America, where top-rate skiing is guaranteed, Brian James says

There were 36 inches of snow beneath the ski blades. The tops of ski boots were like the fins of speeding sharks just breaking the surface of the 10 inches of "champagne" powder fallen overnight. Every half-mile or so you needed to shake giggles free of the soft flakes still drifting down. Yet the sharpest memory of a superlative first day's skiing in Colorado is that of a sound: the throaty roar of machines relentlessly making snow.

Ed Bowers, speaking for the Copper Mountain resort, explains: "Sure, the skiing is great today. But we still don't have a base right up to here," gesturing chest-high. "So if we get a little freak weather, or all the New Year crowds decide to turn on the same spot, we might get the mountain showing through. Can't let it happen. These machines have been going since September. That way, no matter what nature does, we open the day we say, the day the hotels and restaurants are ready."

"That way no one comes here and goes back to Des Moines or wherever and says, 'Colorado? Swell place but the skiing wasousy!'" That way we will ski on snow piled high up to the last hour of the last day of the season in late April. It's what you need to do if you are in the ski business."

That same phrase had been used in Keystone, two days before. A dozen of us were on top of a mountain at 10pm, preparing to ski the three miles back to the village on the world's longest floodlit run. But it was 18° below freezing, and surely the piste would be one long icy rut?

"No way," the Keystone spokesman said. "Since dark fell we have constantly regroomed the surface. Sure, maybe only two dozen of you want to go. But we advertise night skiing as a feature — so making it happen is what you do if you are in the ski business."

Many European ski-resort directors will have spent the first month of the season gazing in suicidal depression on to green-brown mountains for the third or fourth consecutive snow-scarce year. What they should have been doing is flying to America, where the future is being shaped.



Powder charge: Aspen, Colorado, where the learning is made easy and you can choose your own degree of fright

The provision of that artificial snow, expensive insurance against disillusionment for skiers and bankruptcy for resorts, is a crucial example of the change. Vail, America's top resort, averages more than 26ft of snow each winter, yet this year has extended snow-making to cover one-tenth of its vast piste acreage; Copper Mountain has more than a quarter of its piste exposed to machine-made snow; Breckenridge, far from resting on the laurels of its sixth record-breaking year in succession, has increased its capacity to stand in for wiffling nature.

All this contrasts with two years in Europe when I spotted only a handful of machines in use. Of course, some European resorts do think more expansively, and the

Colorado stations have the advantage in altitude denied many Swiss and Austrian rivals. But the central point is about attitude, not altitude. I have enjoyed many fine skiing holidays in Europe without ever quite losing the sense that some degree of labour and pain, humiliation and inconvenience was heaped upon high financial cost, and seen as the rightful price for the pleasure. One especially pompous Austrian even said as much: "Learning to ski must not be easy. You have to deserve the mountains."

Colorado could not disagree more. In our party were five beginners. At the end of the second day, three skied their first three-mile run. By the end of the week, all were coming down an intermediate run with their skis virtually parallel.

This was accomplished without a moment of misery.

- Boot-fitting: we all know the ordeal of hopping on one foot in a crowded rental store, while surly locals insist ski boots are meant to pinch at first. In Breckenridge one trod a carpeted dais while courteous young men, working in a sunken well at your ankle-height, measured and fitted the boots and demonstrated the buckling.
- Ski-classes: I watched our beginners, warming to friendly and articulate explanations, all doing different exercises which somehow brought them to the same point of expertise. "You encourage what they do best rather than nag about what they do wrong," was the teaching philosophy.
- Ski-lifts: drags, especially T-bars

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Easy, if you know the ropes

Doug Sager enjoys being pampered on the slopes of Vail and Beaver Creek

Never tried skiing in the United States?

Though born there I never had either, until this fourth dreadful winter of no snow in the Alps. Jumping in at the deep end, I took Europe's most extensive American ski-package operator, Ski the American Dream, to the biggest single mountain in the country, Vail. Even Vail, it seems, isn't big enough for its owner, Vail Associates. It has developed a nearby mountain, Beaver Creek, into an even more user-friendly network of mostly intermediate trails.

(T as in Terrifying), are virtually unknown. You travel mostly by chair, with more cheerful young men assisting novices. Signs boards saying "Tips up... place skis down... stand up... lean forward now" ensure you dismount with a gentle slither on to safe ground. Contrast this with the fat-end sucking Gaul who snarls when you fail to grasp the T-bar pole he slings at you, or fails to break up the icy patch on the arrival pad.

• The pistes: signposted and groomed. When novices go off on a green (simple) run you know it will be consistent; none of the sudden pitches of steep moguls or iced-up gullies that account for many first-timers bursting into tears and determined never to try again. Hot-doggers on terror runs through these "Slow Ski" zones face \$300 fines.

I must not suggest Colorado skiing is so sanitized as to defy any sense of adventure. The back bowls of every resort I visited offer "double-black" runs of such sensational aspect as to encourage morbid thought. The point is that you choose your own degree of fright: a cruise or moguls, a fast blast or some careful powder picking.

I do not paint Colorado as paradise. The lack of good mountain food is an irritant. A few of the chairs are slow and ancient. But as a place to learn and then improve it is in so high a class as to encourage a perverse pity for the newcomers in our group: where are they ever going to find such sport again? Unless they go back. Or unless the Old World of skiing accepts it has much to learn from the New.

TRAVEL NOTES

• British Airways' Poundstretcher offers skiing holidays to Vail, Breckenridge, Keystone and Copper Mountain. Prices, including flights, transfers and accommodation from £399 (based on six adults sharing a two-bedroom apartment at Keystone in April).

• One week's skiing at Keystone and Breckenridge is reduced to £299 for departures in January (two adults sharing). Departures on February 3 and 10 are reduced to £299. Reservations (0293 546222).

Stealing a few lines in the powder at Vail, we learnt, is to invite confrontation with the local sheriff, the Colorado

State Police and federal park rangers, not to mention the Vail ski patrol. Under Colorado law, access to the off-piste, or backcountry skiing, is limited to exits from Vail resort boundaries through specified gates.

Vail has also recently introduced specially policed slow areas to reduce high-speed collisions. Skiers in a hurry may lose their lift passes. And you won't be allowed to board a ski lift wearing a personal stereo.

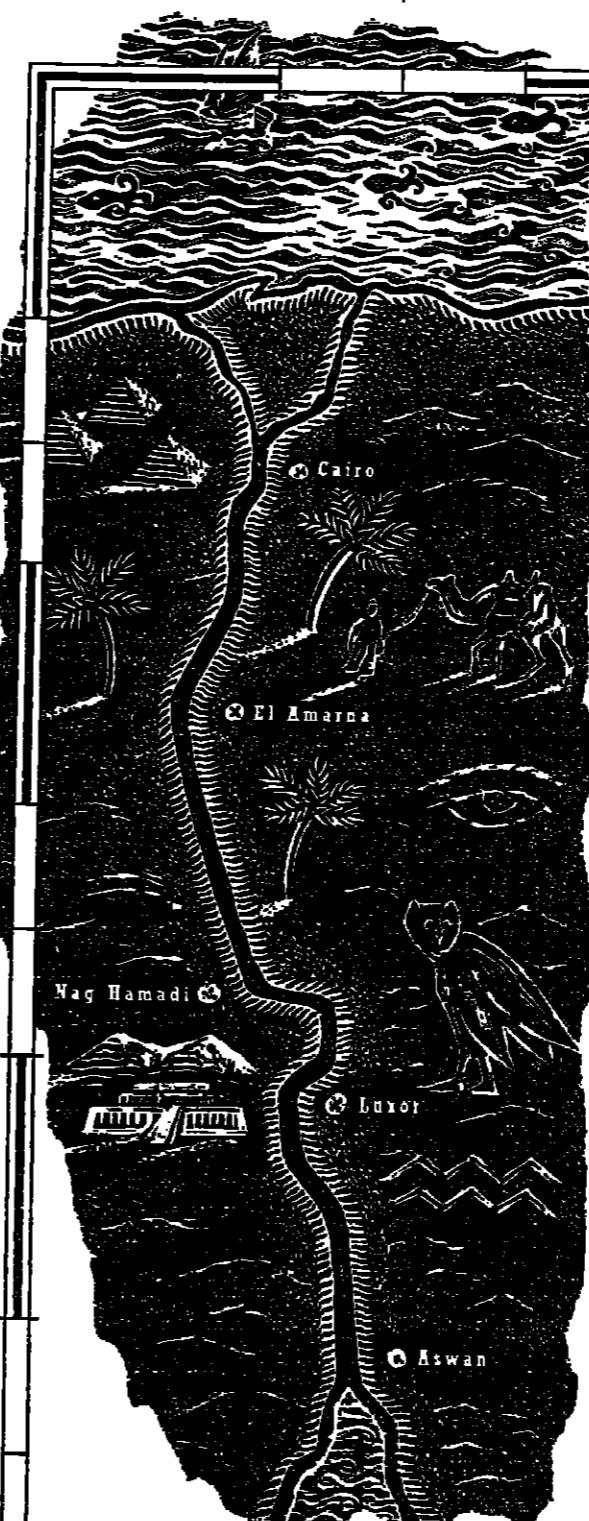
To the European, used to considering skiing as a contact sport, Vail's structures may smack of nannyism. In fact, it's an art of cosseting the customer. Beaver Creek has created special Wild West attractions on screened runs where children are protected from the speed freaks. Other pistes are reserved for slow skiers and for families wanting to ski together.

Serious skiers will appreciate Vail's extensive network of high-speed quad chairlifts. In terms of vertical feet skied per week, the high-speed chairs, fall-line pistes and grooming to allow fast cruising contribute to give the ambitious skier far more skiing per holiday than he would find anywhere in the Alps.

If "holiday" is the operative word in your skiing, Vail and Beaver Creek will slam the door forever on bookings of European "chalet parties". I took a stretch Cadillac, part of the Ski the American Dream package, from Denver airport straight to the Vail Westin Hotel, with its outdoor hot tubs, cinema-sized colour televisions and ski valet service (ski down from Vail on Westin's own piste to the hotel door and just leave your skis for the doorman). Similarly, at the Hyatt Regency in Beaver Creek, the ski valet warms your boots overnight.

TRAVEL NOTES

• Ski the American Dream weeks in Vail and Beaver Creek from £2425 (4 Star Chambers, High Street North, London E6 1JD, 01-552 1201).



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TRAVEL

Hazy days for the bone idle

Take Menorca, add a villa with pool and don't stir: a mix guaranteed to satisfy most family holiday demands, Sally Baker writes

The blonde villa rep had a Mancunian accent dimmed by 11 years' residence in Menorca. She extolled the delights of various restaurants, showed us how to light the hostile Calor gas cooker, circled some recommended beaches on the map, and asked for questions.

I cleared my throat nervously. Had there been any sightings of, um, British lager louts on the island yet? She snorted. A noisy bunch of lads had indeed turned up at a newish seaside development, but as the week wore on and they failed to find any discos, pubs or other outlets for their exuberance, they became docile,

built sand-castles on the beach with the children, and went home quietly when their time was up. They were, she said, rather sweet.

Menorca's swollen summer population is about equally split between British and Spanish holidaymakers, with apparent good cheer on all sides. The former have, of course, made their mark — on the harbour front in the capital, Mahón, the faded baroque splendour of "La Electrica" Mahoniana, also 1892, now houses Pedro's Boat Centre, just along from the Mad Hatter Tea Rooms, while next door at the Xoriguer Gin Distillery the guided tours "with free tastings" were going well. But in the dozen or more

busy restaurants which line the pretty quay at Villa Carles near Mahón, the holidaymakers tucking into the calamares or paella were just as likely to be Spanish.

Most of the visitors stay in the low-rise and acceptably low-key "urbanisations" dotted around the coast, usually dazzlingly whitewashed villa and apartment complexes clustered around the largest, sandiest beaches, where you can nurse an ice-cold San Miguel in the shade of the beach bar, marvel at the absence of loud music, thrill to the relentless efforts of novice sail-boarders to stay out of the water for more than three seconds while not decapitating the children swimming at their

bodies on these beaches in high season. Far quieter are the myriad coves and inlets away from the "urbanisations", some accessible by bumpy track, some destined to be the exclusive preserve of the young, fit and intrepid. I had not seen the Mediterranean for some years and feared the polluted worst, but apart from a nostril-wrinking whiff and a shoal of brightly-coloured plastic bags moving gently in the shallows on one north-coast beach, it was as warm, clear and inviting as ever.

Not that we accepted its invitation often, since our villa compensated for the gas cooker with its own pool. This is from now on a *sine qua non* of holiday happiness.

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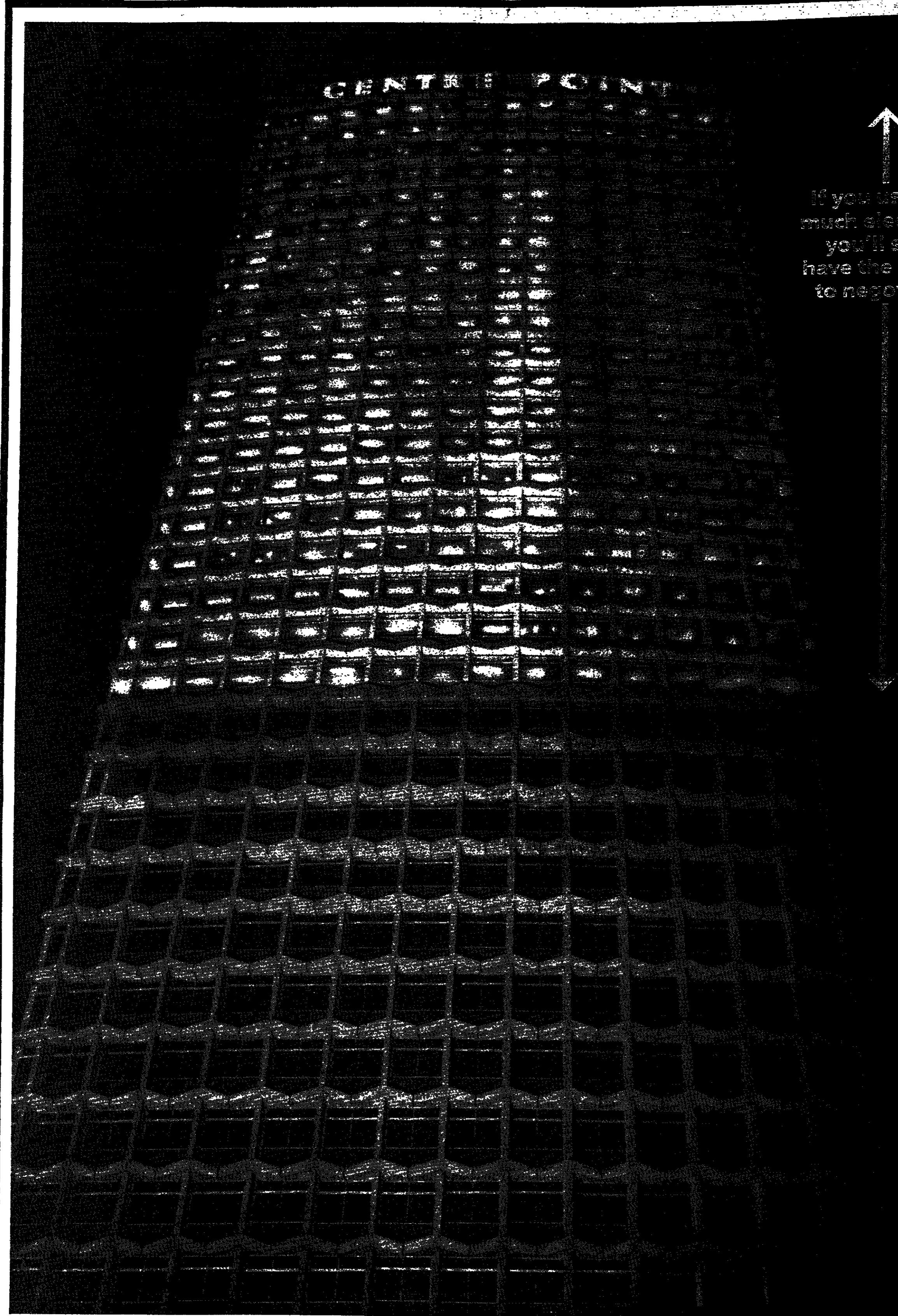
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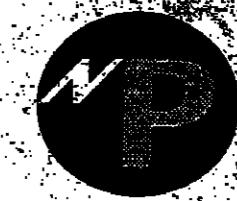
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